

- SUBJECT:** Requiring large cities to designate a chief plumbing inspector
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Talton, Wong, A. Allen, Bailey, Blake, Rodriguez
0 nays
1 absent — Menendez
- WITNESSES:** For — Arturo Villegas, United Plumbers of Texas, El Paso
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, sec. 214.011, allows a city that does not have a special charter providing for an inspector of plumbing to appoint an inspector of plumbing for a term fixed by the city's governing body. Rules promulgated by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners set the requirements for a plumbing inspector. These rules allow certain individuals who do not have plumbing or industry related experience - such as a professional licensed engineer or a professional licensed architect - to be designated as plumbing inspectors.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2209 would require cities with a population of 550,000 or more - Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, and Fort Worth - to designate an individual to serve as the city's chief plumbing inspector for a fixed period of time designated by the city's governing board. The chief plumbing inspector would have to be a journeyman plumber or master plumber, be a plumbing inspector, and meet any additional requirements imposed by the city. The chief plumbing inspector could hold other related titles. The chief plumbing inspector would not be required to be a city employee.
- The bill would allow a person currently designated as a chief plumbing inspector by a city with a population of 550,000 or more to continue serving as the chief plumbing inspector until the earlier of the expiration date of the plumber's term or September 1, 2007.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

NOTES:

The committee substitute differed from the bill as filed by:

- requiring the chief plumbing inspector to be a plumbing inspector;
and
- decreasing the population requirement from a municipality with a population of 600,000 or more to a municipality with a population of 550,000 or more.