

- SUBJECT:** Adding presidential debates as an eligible Major Events Trust Fund event
- COMMITTEE:** Economic and Small Business Development — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Button, Johnson, C. Anderson, Faircloth, Isaac, Villalba
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Metcalf, E. Rodriguez, Vo
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dana Harris, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Mindy Ellmer, North Texas Commission; Carlton Schwab, Texas Economic Development Council; Brian Sullivan, Texas Hotel and Lodging Association; Homero Lucero, Texas Travel Industry Association)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robert Wood, Comptroller of Public Accounts)
- BACKGROUND:** The Major Events Trust Fund provides an economic incentive for organizations to host large events in Texas. The comptroller estimates the amount of state and local tax revenue to be generated by an event, and this amount is set aside in the trust fund to defray the cost of hosting the event. An event must be listed under Vernon’s Texas Civil Statutes, art. 5190.14, sec. 5A to be eligible.
- DIGEST:** HB 1318 would include presidential general election debates run by the Commission on Presidential Debates in the list of events eligible for disbursements from the Major Events Trust Fund.
- This bill would take effect September 1, 2015.