

- SUBJECT:** Eliminating of daylight saving time
- COMMITTEE:** Government Transparency and Operation — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 4 ayes — Elkins, Walle, Galindo, Gutierrez
- 1 nay — Scott Turner
- 2 absent — Gonzales, Leach
- WITNESSES:** For — Martha Habluetzel, TX DST 100% or End It; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Marida Favia del Core Borrromeo, Exotic Wildlife Association; Madison Deyo; Katlyn Deyo; CJ Grisham)
- Against — Melissa Rowell
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 312.016 establishes that the standard time in Texas is the time at the 90th meridian longitude west from Greenwich, also known as central standard time. The standard time in a region of Texas that used mountain standard time before June 12, 1947, is the time at the 105th meridian longitude west from Greenwich, also known as mountain standard time. Unless otherwise expressly provided, a reference in a statute, order, or rule to the time in which an act must be performed means the appropriate standard time as provided above.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 150 would exempt the state from abiding by daylight saving time. The bill would accomplish this by using the exemption provisions of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. Section 260a(a)). CSHB 150 would apply to both the portion of the state using central standard time and the portion of the state using mountain standard time as the official time.
- This bill would take effect November 1, 2015, to coincide with the end of daylight saving time for 2015.
- SUPPORTERS** CSHB 150 would put an end to an antiquated system. Daylight saving

SAY: time is an artificial imposition that has passed its usefulness.

Eliminating daylight saving time would have many benefits. It would allow children to walk to the bus stop or to school in the morning after sun up, instead of in the dark. It also would help parents put their children to bed in the evenings because it is still light out during daylight saving time when most children are trying to go to bed. In addition, electric companies spend time and money updating their systems to account for the time change and can end up overbilling customers. CSHB 150 would help alleviate these issues.

Concerns that daylight saving time saves energy have little merit, as supported by a recent study that reached the opposite conclusion. Researchers found that the reduced cost of lighting in the afternoons is more than offset by the higher air-conditioning costs on hot afternoons and increased heating costs on cool mornings. Therefore, one unchanging time should be the standard in Texas.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

CSHB 150 would put an end to what many people describe as their favorite time of year, when it stays lighter in the evening. Many Texans treasure the extra hour of daylight in the afternoon because they work later hours, exercise in the evenings, or need to complete outdoor household chores. Many people actually wish to do away with central standard time and have daylight saving time year round.

CSHB 150 could result in more energy consumption throughout the year. One advantage of implementing daylight saving time is the ability to conserve energy. As the demand for electricity and gas increases during summer hours, daylight saving time is a way to conserve overall household energy. Transferring an extra daylight hour to the evening can counter blackouts and other electrical failures that can occur later in the day. The transferred hour in the evening also decreases the need for artificial lighting in the house, which decreases electricity use and increases energy efficiency.