

- SUBJECT:** Feasibility study on establishing Hueco Tanks State Park visitors center
- COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation and Tourism — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Guillen, Frullo, Larson, Márquez, Murr
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Dukes, Smith
- WITNESSES:** For — Jamie McNally, Access Fund; Rafael Gomez, Jr., Ysleta del Sur Pueblo; Ronald Jackson, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo; Britt Bousman; Myles Miller; Troy Wilson; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Robert Turner, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association)
- Against — None
- On — Brent Leisure, Texas Parks and Wildlife; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kevin Good, Texas Parks and Wildlife)
- BACKGROUND:** Hueco Tanks State Park is located in El Paso County. Some have called for the establishment of facilities at the park that could increase revenue, attendance, and the ability of persons with disabilities to enjoy the park, among other benefits.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 988 would require the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to conduct a study on the need for and feasibility of establishing a visitors center at Hueco Tanks State Park in El Paso County.
- The department would be required to collaborate with the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe in planning for the development of the visitors center site.
- The bill would require the department to report the results of the study, which must contain a recommendation on whether to build the center, to the Legislature no later than May 1, 2016.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015, and its provisions would expire January 1, 2017.