

SUBJECT: Allowing TxDOT to increase the size of the aviation advisory committee

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Morrison, Martinez, Burkett, Y. Davis, Israel, Phillips, Pickett, Simmons, E. Thompson, S. Thompson, Wray

0 nays

2 absent — Goldman, Minjarez

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* James Bass and Marc Williams, Texas Department of Transportation)

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code, sec. 21.003 establishes the aviation advisory committee, which consists of six members appointed by the Texas Transportation Commission and advises the commission and the Texas Department of Transportation on aviation matters. Members must have five years of successful experience as a pilot, aircraft facilities manager, or fixed-base operator.

DIGEST: HB 3591 would require the Texas Transportation Commission to, by rule, determine the number of members on the aviation advisory committee, as long as the number was at least six.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017. The commission would adopt the required rules under this bill by September 1, 2018.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 3591 would allow the Texas Transportation Commission to increase the geographical diversity and knowledgebase of the aviation advisory

committee. The committee makes recommendations on a variety of topics, including the awarding of grants and federal dollars to airports. A six-member commission cannot completely represent all regions of a state as big as Texas. Expanding the size of the advisory committee would allow the commission to get input from a wider variety of areas and experts.

OPPONENTS
SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES: A companion bill, SB 1522 by Nichols, was approved by the Senate on April 19.