

- SUBJECT:** Extending the deadline to request a hearing regarding a towed vehicle
- COMMITTEE:** Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Leach, Farrar, Y. Davis, Julie Johnson, Krause, Meyer, Neave, Smith, White
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Sergio Gonzales; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Daniel Armendariz, Austin Tenants Council; Lynn Holt, Justices of the Peace and Constables Association; Nate Walker, Texas Housers)
- Against — Tasha Mora, Southwest Tow Operators; Jeanette Rash, Texas Towing and Storage Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Amy Edwards)
- BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code secs. 2308.454 to 2308.456 require towing companies and vehicle storage facilities to provide notice to the owner of a towed or booted vehicle of the owner's right to request a court hearing to determine whether probable cause existed to tow or boot the vehicle. A vehicle owner would have 14 days from the date the vehicle was towed or booted to request a court hearing.
- Some have suggested that requiring vehicle owners to request a hearing to contest the towing or booting of a vehicle within 14 days does not allow them enough time to understand their rights and prepare for the hearing.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 625 would allow a person to submit a written request for a hearing concerning a towed car within 60 days of the date the vehicle was towed, excluding weekends and legal holidays, provided that the vehicle had been released from the vehicle storage facility to which it was towed within 20 days.
- Notice provided to individuals whose vehicles were towed would have to include information about the deadline for submitting a request for a

hearing.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to a notice or request for a hearing related to a car that was towed or booted on or after that date.