

SUBJECT: Allowing Jacksonville police to enforce commercial vehicle standards

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Y. Davis, Goldman, Krause, Leman,
Martinez, Ortega, Raney, E. Thompson

0 nays

3 absent — Bernal, Hefner, Thierry

WITNESSES: For — Andrew Hawkes, City of Jacksonville; John Esparza, Texas
Trucking Association

Against — None

On — Jeremy Nordloh, Texas Department of Public Safety

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code sec. 644.101 describes certain municipalities whose
peace officers may be certified by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
to enforce commercial vehicle safety standards.

Some have noted that Jacksonville has increasingly heavy truck traffic but
that its police officers are not authorized to enforce commercial motor
vehicle safety standards.

DIGEST: HB 695 would add a municipality with a population between 14,000
and 17,000 that contained three or more numbered U.S. highways and was
located in a county that was adjacent to a county with a population of
more than 200,000 (Jacksonville) to the list of municipalities whose peace
officers could apply for certification from the Department of Public Safety
to enforce commercial vehicle safety standards.

To the extent of any conflict with another act of the 86th Legislature
involving nonsubstantive additions and corrections, this bill would
prevail.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.