

- SUBJECT:** Allowing Atascosa County to impose a hotel occupancy tax
- COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Meyer, Thierry, Button, Cole, Guerra, Martinez Fischer, Murphy, Noble, Rodriguez, Sanford, Shine  
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Justin Bragiel, Texas Hotel and Lodging Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ron Hinkle, Texas Travel Alliance)  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Interested parties have suggested allowing Atascosa County, well known for its annual Poteet strawberry festival, to impose a hotel occupancy tax to fund the construction of a civic center.
- DIGEST:** HB 1764 would allow certain counties (Atascosa County) with a population of less than 60,000 in which an annual strawberry festival was held in a location that was not the county seat to impose a hotel occupancy tax of up to 2 percent of the price of a hotel room.  
  
The tax revenues could be used only for the construction, improvement, and operation of a civic center with an arena used for rodeos, livestock shows, and agricultural expositions to substantially enhance hotel activity and encourage tourism.  
  
The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.