

**SUBJECT:** Allowing GCA development corporations to finance certain projects

**COMMITTEE:** International Relations and Economic Development — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Button, C. Morales, Beckley, C. Bell, Canales, Hunter, Metcalf, Ordaz Perez

0 nays

1 absent — Larson

**WITNESSES:** For — Elizabeth Fazio Hale, Gulf Coast Authority; Charlene Heydinger, Keeping PACE in Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carrie Simmons, Conservative Texans for Energy Innovation; Frank Jones, Gulf Coast Authority)

Against — None

**DIGEST:** HB 2390 would allow a development corporation created by the Gulf Coast Authority to finance:

- projects authorized under the Development Corporation Act located inside or outside of Texas; and
- qualified improvements located inside or outside of Texas in the same manner and to the same extent as a municipality or county is authorized under the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act.

The 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, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 2390 would expand regional and statewide business opportunities, save Texans money, and help protect the water and environment of Texas by allowing development corporations created by the Gulf Coast Authority (GCA) to finance projects and improvements across Texas'

borders. Water treatment projects may span across state lines and be conducted by businesses with operations in multiple states. By allowing the financing of such projects, the bill would expand opportunities for regional investment in wastewater treatment and reduce the costs of waste management. Regional financing would allow greater cost-sharing among stakeholders in wastewater and other eligible projects, thereby reducing the burden on Texas customers.

The bill also would promote the building of energy-efficient and water-saving developments by allowing GCA-created development corporations to finance qualified improvements under the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act outside of Texas.

CRITICS  
SAY:

No concerns identified.