

SUBJECT: Requiring a colonia self-help center in Nueces County

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Cortez, Holland, Bernal, Campos, Gates, Jarvis Johnson,
Minjarez, Slaton

0 nays

1 absent — Morales Shaw

WITNESSES: For — John Marez, Nueces County (*Registered, but did not testify*:
Patricia Shipton, Nueces County; Barbara Canales, Nueces County Judge)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Homero Cabello, Texas Department
of Housing and Community Affairs)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 2306.582(a) requires the Texas Department of
Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to establish colonia self-help
centers in El-Paso, Hidalgo, Starr, and Webb counties, and in Cameron
County to serve Cameron and Willacy counties.

Sec. 2306.584(a) requires the TDHCA board to appoint at least five
residents of colonias to serve on the Colonia Resident Advisory
Committee, to be selected from lists of candidates submitted by local
nonprofits and the commissioners court of a county in which a self-help
center is located.

Some have suggested that certain residents in Nueces County would
benefit from a colonia self-help center to provide low-income residents
with resources to improve their living conditions.

DIGEST: HB 2893 would add Nueces County to the counties in which the TDHCA
had to establish a colonia self-help center. The bill also would change the

minimum number of members to be appointed by the TDHCA board to the Colonia Resident Advisory Committee from five to six.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.