

SUBJECT: Allowing distance training and education courses for ARB members

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Meyer, Thierry, Button, Cole, Guerra, Murphy, Noble, Rodriguez, Sanford, Shine

0 nays

1 absent — Martinez Fischer

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Matt Grabner, Ryan, LLC; W.W. “Whit” Jones)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Korry Castillo, Comptroller of Public Accounts)

DIGEST: HB 3788 would allow the comptroller to provide required training and education courses for appraisal review board members as distance courses.

The comptroller could adopt rules to implement training and education courses, including rules establishing criteria for course availability and for demonstrating course completion.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2022.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 3788 would expand options for the training of appraisal review board (ARB) members by allowing required training and continuing education courses to be provided as distance courses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor issued a waiver of the in-class requirement, and the comptroller successfully provided online training for 863 ARB members by June 2020. The bill would amend statute to allow the comptroller to continue to provide the training in the classroom and

online, granting flexibility for both ARB members and the comptroller's office. The online training option would save taxpayer funds, as ARB members would not have to spend money to travel. Online courses also would reach rural areas and areas affected by potential disasters.

CRITICS
SAY:

No concerns identified.