

SUBJECT: Modifying the TDHCA homeless housing and services program

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Cortez, Bernal, Campos, Jarvis Johnson, Minjarez

3 nays — Holland, Gates, Slaton

1 absent — Morales Shaw

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Alexa Aragonéz, City of Arlington; Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; T.J. Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Christine Wright, City of San Antonio; Daniel Collins, El Paso County; Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Seetha Kulandaisamy, Texas Council on Family Violence; Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Madeline Kennedy; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some suggest that state funds used to prevent and eliminate homelessness in larger Texas cities are not effectively addressing all of the causes of homelessness, particularly with respect to displacement caused by economic development activities.

DIGEST: HB 662 would include the provision of programs to prevent homelessness resulting from displacement due to economic development activities among the specified purposes of the homeless housing and services program that may be operated by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) in each municipality in the state with a population of 285,500 or more.

The bill also would specify that TDHCA could adopt as one of its rules governing the administration of the program a rule providing that each such municipality would receive an allocation of any available funding.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.