

SUBJECT: Prohibiting municipalities from regulating the removal of certain trees

COMMITTEE: Land & Resource Management — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Burns, Rogers, C. Bell, K. Bell, Buckley, Reynolds, Schofield
2 nays — Ortega, Sherman

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jay Crossley, Farm&City; Scott Norman, Texas Association of Builders; Randan Steinhauser; Brendan Steinhauser)

Against — Craig Nazor, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club; Elizabeth McGreevy, Project Bedrock and Native Plant Society of Texas; Richard Alles; Stephanie Simmons; Eric Strickland; Carl Thorne-Thomsen (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter; Chris Gunter; Linda Guy)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brie Franco, City of Austin)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that people in certain municipalities are not able to remove Ashe juniper trees on their property.

DIGEST: Under HB 2239, municipalities could not prohibit the removal of or impose a tree mitigation fee for the removal of an Ashe juniper tree.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.