

- SUBJECT:** Allowing municipalities to annex areas by certain railways
- COMMITTEE:** Land & Resource Management — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Burns, Rogers, C. Bell, K. Bell, Buckley, Ortega, Reynolds, Sherman
- 1 nay — Schofield
- WITNESSES:** For — Rob Parsons, American Planning Association - Texas Chapter; Brynn Myers, City of Temple (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brie Franco, City of Austin; Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Nadia Islam, City of San Antonio; Rick Ramirez, City of Sugar Land; Bill Kelly, Mayor’s Office, City of Houston; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Dennis Kearns, Texas Railroad Association)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that current law does not explicitly allow a municipality to annex an area within its extraterritorial jurisdiction if a railroad separates the area.
- DIGEST:** Notwithstanding any other law, HB 2956 would allow a municipality that was annexing an area under certain annexing provisions to also annex an additional area adjacent to a right-of-way of a railway line, spur, or other railroad property that was contiguous and ran parallel to the municipality’s boundaries and was contiguous to the initial area being annexed under certain annexing provisions.
- For the purposes of the bill or other law with a municipal boundary contiguous requirement, an area adjacent or contiguous to the initial area being annexed would be considered adjacent and contiguous to the annexing municipality. Certain width requirements for annexation would not apply to the additional area being annexed under the bill.
- 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, 2023.