

SUBJECT: Adjusting criteria for media production development zone recognition

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation & Tourism — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Ashby, Martinez, Flores, Holland, Morrison

0 nays

4 absent — Bailes, Collier, Garcia, Troxclair

0 present not voting

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Jessica Christopherson, Fort Worth Film Commission; Stacy Schmitt, Opportunity Austin; Red Sanders, Red Productions; Justin Bragiel, Texas Hotel and Lodging Association; Ron Hinkle, Texas Travel Alliance; Heather Page, The Shine Company; Royce Poinsett, Troublemaker Studios; International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Adriana Cruz, Texas Economic Development & Tourism, Office of the Governor)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the eligibility and population requirements for an area to be recognized as a media production development zone should be revised.

DIGEST: HB 4051 would eliminate the requirement that a metropolitan statistical area's principal municipality have a population greater than 250,000 in order for any portion of the metropolitan statistical area to be approved as a media production development zone.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023 and apply only to an application for designation submitted on or after that date.