

**SUBJECT:** Conducting a study on the economic impact of navigation districts

**COMMITTEE:** Transportation — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 12 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Davis, Gamez, Caroline Harris, Lozano, Lujan, Ordaz, Patterson, Perez, Romero

0 nays

1 absent — Landgraf

**WITNESSES:** For — Sarah L Searight, Port Aransas Conservancy (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dara Pena, Port Aransas Conservancy)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that a quantitative analysis of the economic contribution of ports would help to examine how ports contribute to the economy and the potential for economic growth of navigation districts in Texas.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 4483 would require the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to conduct a study on the economic impact and potential for economic growth of navigation districts. The study would determine each navigation district's direct economic impact on the state's economy, total population, and projected economic growth over the next 10 years. The study also would determine the economic impact, population, and projected economic growth of each navigation district at the county level.

By December 1, 2024, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute would be required to submit a report to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, and each member of the Legislature containing the study's results.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

**NOTES:** According to the Legislative Budget Board, CSHB 4483 would have a

negative impact of \$536,500 on general revenue related funds for fiscal 2024-25.