

SUBJECT: Requiring state approval for adoption of a municipal climate charter

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Hunter, Dean, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller

5 nays — Hernandez, Anchía, Raymond, S. Thompson, Turner

WITNESSES: For — Brent Bennett, Texas Public Policy Foundation (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kristi Antonick, Phillip Mills-Lehmann, Samuel Sheetz, Americans for Prosperity; Mark Bell, Association of Electric Companies of Texas; John Colyandro, Carbon Neutral Coalition; Andrea Hutchins, Greater El Paso Chamber; Mark Smith, Hunt Companies Inc; Brandy Marquez, Marathon Petroleum Corporation; Annie Spilman, NFIB; Travis McCormick, Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association; Michael D. Lozano, Permian Basin Petroleum Association; David Cagnolatti, Phillips 66; Chad Shoemake, Republican Party of Texas; Stephanie Matthews, Texas Association of Business; Mark Vickery, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Ryan Paylor, Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association; Tulsi Oberbeck, Texas Oil and Gas Association; Tricia Davis, Texas Royalty Council; Daniel Martinez, Karla Sierra, Juan Vasquez, The LIBRE Initiative; Natalie Ibe, Fran Rhodes, True Texas Project; Joshua Medeiros, Young Conservative Federation; Cary Cheshire)

Against —Paula Blackmon, City of Dallas; Michael Siegel, Ground Game Texas; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Rita Beving (*Registered, but did not testify* Brie Franco, City of Austin; Clifford Sparks, City of Dallas; Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; Nadia Islam, City of San Antonio; Jason Sabo, Environment Texas; Sandra Haverlah, Environmental Defense Fund; Jay Crossley, Farm & City; Bill Kelly, Mayor’s Office, City of Houston; Jose Medina, Public Citizen; Jill Glover, Republican Party of Texas; Carisa Lopez, Texas Freedom Network; Joshua Houston, Texas Impact; Kenneth Flippin, US Green Building Council Texas Chapter; and six individuals)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Shawn Hall Lecuona, Kri'ah b'shalom)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that requiring state approval before holding an election to adopt a municipal climate charter could prevent the adoption of such charters that may increase energy costs or result in job losses.

DIGEST: HB 4930 would require a municipality or charter commission to receive approval from the appropriate state agency with proper jurisdiction in order to propose the creation of a climate charter for a municipality or an amendment to a municipality's climate charter.

The bill would define "climate charter" as an overarching or comprehensive ordinance, rule, or other policy statement that addresses climate change or environmental impact on areas such as water, energy, and emissions.

Municipalities that have adopted a climate charter before the effective date of this bill would be required to comply with the approval requirements listed no later than January 1, 2025. A climate charter adopted before the effective date of the bill would remain valid and enforceable until January 1, 2026.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2023.