

SUBJECT: Authorizing dedication ceremonies for new state buildings

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Hunter, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Smithee, S. Thompson, Turner
3 nays — Dean, Slawson, Spiller
3 absent — Hernandez, Anchía, Raymond

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (April 18) — 30 - 1

WITNESSES: None (*considered in a formal meeting on May 19*)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that the Texas Facilities Commission cannot use state funds to hold a building dedication ceremony for new state office buildings without specific legislative authorization to purchase necessary items.

DIGEST: SB 553 would authorize the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) to hold a ceremony to dedicate a new state building. TFC could use available appropriated money or donated money to pay for the ceremony and could use up to \$10,000 of appropriated money to purchase food, nonalcoholic beverages, flowers, decorations, and other appropriate items that the commission would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing. TFC could accept gifts, grants, or donations from any source for the bill's purposes.

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.