

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R2054 WP-D

S.B. 201
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Border Affairs
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DIGEST

Currently, Texas law does not authorize ports to contract with foreign entities to facilitate water-borne trade. Texas ports are centers for international trade and have no explicit authority to contract with foreign individuals, corporations, or units of government to conduct their business. Navigation districts are only granted certain specific powers by the Texas Constitution. S.B. 201 would provide explicit permission for Texas ports to contract with Mexico and other nations or foreign entities to facilitate water-borne trade.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 201 authorizes a navigation district to contract with other parties.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 60A, Water Code, by adding Section 60.003, as follows:

Sec. 60.003. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATION OR DEVELOPMENT OF A DISTRICT. Authorizes a district to contract with any person, foreign or domestic, necessary or convenient to the operation or development of a navigation district's ports and waterways.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.

Effective date: upon passage.