

Interim Hearings – Week of January 27, 2020

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Related Categories: Interim hearings, 86th Session

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January 28

Senate Committee on [Intergovernmental Relations](#) (Brownsville)

Charge 1: Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program: Review existing regulations governing the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program and the Qualified Allocation Plan to determine whether regulations exist that unnecessarily increase the cost of developing and maintaining affordable housing. Make recommendations to provide regulatory relief and provide greater development of affordable housing in Texas.

- [Texas Housing Insight](#), Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University, January 10, 2020
- ["Gentrification Transforming Neighborhoods in Big Texas Cities,"](#) *Southwest Economy*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Fourth Quarter 2019
- [Interim Hearings – Week of December 2, 2019, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, December 5](#), Legislative Reference Library, November 26, 2019

Charge 2: Federal Housing Review: Study all federal housing programs accessible to Texas. Make recommendations that ensure the state maximizes the use of those programs.

- [Interim Hearings – Week of December 2, 2019, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, December 5](#), Legislative Reference Library, November 26, 2019

Charge 3: Infrastructure Resiliency: Examine the authority special purpose districts have to generate natural disaster resilient infrastructure. Determine ways state government can work with special purpose districts to mitigate future flooding and promote more resilient infrastructure. Make recommendations on how special purpose

districts may use their statutory authority to assist in mitigating damage from future natural disasters.

- *Regional Resilience Toolkit: 5 Steps to Build Large Scale Resilience to Natural Disasters*, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, July 2019
- *Interim Hearings – Week of December 2, 2019, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, December 5*, Legislative Reference Library, November 26, 2019

Charge 4: Monitoring: Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations passed by the 86th Legislature, as well as relevant agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction. Specifically, make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, or complete implementation of the following:

- *SB 1303*, relating to landowner rights in a city's extraterritorial jurisdiction;
- *SB 1474*, relating to private activity bonds; and
- *HB 2330*, relating to simplifying disaster assistance.
 - *Interim Report to the 86th Texas Legislature*, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, November 2018

January 30

House Committee on *State Affairs*

Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- *SB 14*, *HB 1960*, and *HB 2422*, which relate to broadband services provided by electric cooperatives. Monitor the implementation of the legislation, including the status of rural electric cooperatives deploying broadband fiber in underserved areas. Monitor the efforts of the Texas Department of Transportation in executing state coordination of certain broadband development projects in rural areas.
- *"Fed Up with Slow and Spotty Internet, a Small Texas Town Built Its Own High-Speed Network," Dallas Morning News*, December 22, 2019
- *"Texas' Digital Divide: The State of Broadband in Texas' Rural Communities," Fiscal Notes*, October 2019
- *SB 475* and *SB 936*, which relate to the security of the state's electric grid. Monitor the creation of the Texas Electric Grid Security Council and its efforts to facilitate the aggregation, coordination, and dissemination of best security practices for the electric

industry, including generation, transmission, and delivery of electricity. Evaluate the efforts between the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), electric utilities, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to ensure collaboration related to cybersecurity issues and make recommendations to achieve the highest level of security within the state's electric grid.

- **SB 1497**, which relates to the registration and regulation of brokers by the Public Utility Commission. Evaluate the effects of requiring registration with the Public Utility Commission of a person providing electric brokerage services and whether these efforts have assisted with customer complaints and corrective measures, deterred entities acting in bad faith, and increased customer protections in the retail electric market.

Charge 2: Receive an update on the 2020 electric reliability forecasts announced by ERCOT and review operational successes and issues from the summer of 2019. The Committee will receive invited testimony from the PUC, ERCOT and other interested parties. Study the electric market to determine potential barriers in attracting sufficient energy supply; examine the obstacles and/or incentives for the development and deployment of new energy supply technology and peak system energy demand management technology; evaluate opportunities for competitive development of energy supply microgrids and the potential for enhancing reliability by transitioning municipally owned utilities to focus on transmission and distribution functions. Examine the enhancement of retail customers' energy supply management capability through promotion of greater retail price transparency. Examine and

make recommendations concerning the build-out of necessary infrastructure to support the increased proliferation of electric vehicles, considering impacts to consumers.

- *Report on Existing and Potential Electric System Constraints and Needs*, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), December 2019
- *ERCOT's Review of Summer 2019*, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), October 11, 2019
- "To Keep the Lights on during Blackouts, Austin Explores Microgrids," *Scientific American*, October 3, 2019
- *Estimating Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Costs Across Major U. S. Metropolitan Areas* (Working Paper), International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), August 2019
- *Valuing and Compensating Distributed Energy Resources in ERCOT*, The Brattle Group, March 28, 2019
- *Scope of Competition in Electric Markets in Texas: Report to the 86th Legislature*, Public Utility Commission of Texas, January 2019
- *Investing in Charging Infrastructure for Plug-In Electric Vehicles: How to Accelerate Deployment*, Center for American Progress, July 2018