

**SUBJECT:** Providing benefits and tax authority; validating prior district actions

**COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 12 ayes — Canales, Bernal, Y. Davis, Goldman, Hefner, Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson

0 nays

1 absent — Landgraf

**WITNESSES:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Chapter 197, Acts of the 58th Legislature, Regular Session, 1963, created the Port of Port Arthur Navigation District of Jefferson County for the construction and improvement of waterways to aid navigation and to provide maritime services.

Interested parties have called for changes to be made to the compensation packages for district commissioners and employees.

**DIGEST:** HB 4695 would make certain changes to the administration of the Port of Port Arthur Navigation District of Jefferson County, including giving the district the authority to impose certain taxes.

The bill would require the Board of Port Commissioners to impose certain taxes, rather than requesting the commissioners court of Jefferson County to levy them.

The bill would add benefits, set by the board, to the compensation for board members and district employees.

The bill also would provide validation and confirmation of certain district actions that occurred prior to the bill's effective date. Governmental acts or proceedings occurring after an act or proceeding validated by the bill could not be held invalid on the ground that the prior act or proceeding

was, in absence of this bill, invalid. This validation and confirmation would not extend to any matter that on the effective date of the bill was involved in litigation if the litigation ultimately resulted in the matter being held invalid, nor would it extend to any matter that had been previously held invalid by a final judgment of a court.

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, 2019.