

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1693
By: Nelson, Brimer
Natural Resources
4/28/2007
As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Inland ports are areas with direct access to highway, rail, air transport, and/or inter-modal facilities that are located away from traditional coastal borders. They serve a purpose similar to port authorities that receive and dispatch water-borne freight, but do so primarily based on the movement of freight through a combination of air, rail, and trucking operations.

Creation of an inland port authority (IPA) would benefit certain communities by helping them compete in today's global economy, since so much of the competition is driven by the ability to process and deliver goods in an expeditious manner. In addition to attracting increased investment in the areas in which it is located, an IPA would complement existing port authorities servicing water-borne freights which often involve goods shipped internationally for further processing and distribution. The overall effect of creating an IPA would be to establish Texas as a desired point of entry for goods shipped from overseas, since the logistic facilities, equipment, and customs processing that would be possible are greatly desired by overseas businesses.

As proposed, S.B. 1693 authorizes any combination of counties or municipalities or of counties and municipalities to agree, by ordinance, resolution, rule, order, or other means to establish an IPA. The bill sets forth the powers and duties of an IPA.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subtitle C, Title 12, Local Government Code, by adding Chapter 399, as follows:

CHAPTER 399. INLAND PORTS AND INLAND PORT AUTHORITIES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 399.001. PURPOSE. Sets forth that the purpose of this chapter is developing and diversifying the economy of this state by encouraging the establishment of inland ports to facilitate commerce through strategic investment in certain areas.

Sec. 399.002. DEFINITIONS. Defines "authority," "inland port," and "inland port improvement or facility."

[Reserves Sections 399.003-399.010 for expansion.]

SUBCHAPTER B. CREATION OF AN INLAND PORT AUTHORITY

Sec. 399.011. CREATION OF INLAND PORT AUTHORITY. Authorizes any combination of counties or municipalities or of counties and municipalities to agree, by ordinance, resolution, rule, order, or other means to establish an inland port authority (IPA). Authorizes the ordinance, resolution, rule, or order to provide for the methods by which an IPA is authorized to raise revenue and acquire property and other appropriate powers and duties of the IPA.

[Reserves Sections 399.012-399.030 for expansion.]

SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES OF AN INLAND PORT AUTHORITY

Sec. 399.031. GENERAL POWERS OF INLAND PORT AUTHORITY. Sets forth the functions and powers of an IPA.

Sec. 399.032. AUTHORITY REGARDING PORT IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES. Authorizes an IPA to construct, acquire, lease, improve, enlarge, extend, repair, maintain, replace, develop, or operate an inland port improvement or facility.

Sec. 399.033. FINANCING OF PORT IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES. Authorizes an IPA to issue bonds in connection with the development of inland port improvements or facilities and to levy and collect ad valorem taxes in connection therewith provided such levy is approved through an election among qualified voters within the boundaries of the IPA.

[Reserves Sections 399.034-399.050 for expansion.]

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2007.