

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 581  
By: Wentworth  
Transportation & Homeland Security  
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Enrolled

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Currently, only counties and municipalities can join an intermunicipal commuter rail district. The board of a district does not possess the authority to change the name of the district. A district may maintain intermodal and commuter rail facilities. Federal legislation distinguishes between types of passenger rail, leading some to conclude that currently, an intermunicipal commuter rail district cannot offer intercity or other passenger rail service. Intermunicipal commuter rail districts are created to provide commuter rail services between municipalities. In the early stages of development, these districts, among other things, study the feasibility of the rail, develop funding alternatives, and develop a preliminary work plan.

S.B. 581 amends current law relating to intermunicipal commuter rail districts.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 2(c), Article 6550c-1, V.T.C.S., to authorize certain political subdivisions and other public entities to become a part of an intermunicipal commuter rail district (district) created under Subsection (b) (relating to a district being created on passage of a resolution favoring the creation of the district by the governing body of each creating municipality) of this section with the approval of the governing body of the political subdivision or public entity, including a public entity located in a county that has become a part of the district.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 3, Article 6550c-1, V.T.C.S., by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (i), as follows:

(b) Provides that the board of directors (board) is composed of certain members, including one member appointed by each public entity that has become a part of the district under Section 2 of this article. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

(i) Requires the board to adopt a name for the district and authorizes the board by resolution to change the name of the district.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 4(e), Article 6550c-1, V.T.C.S., to authorize a district to acquire, construct, develop, own, operate, and maintain intermodal and commuter rail facilities, or intercity or other types of passenger rail services, inside, or connect political subdivisions in, the district.

SECTION 4. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2009.