

SUBJECT: Amending Port Authority Advisory Committee reporting requirements

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 13 ayes — Canales, Landgraf, Bernal, Y. Davis, Goldman, Hefner,
Krause, Leman, Martinez, Ortega, Raney, Thierry, E. Thompson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jennifer Brown, Texas Ports
Association; Omar Garcia, The Port of Corpus Christi)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Marc Williams, Texas Department
of Transportation)

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code sec. 55.007 requires the Port Authority Advisory
Committee to prepare a maritime port mission plan, review projects
eligible for funding by the committee, and prepare a report on Texas
maritime ports every two years, among other duties.

Transportation Code sec. 55.008 requires the committee to prepare a port
capital program every two years. The program defines the committee's
goals and objectives for the development of maritime port facilities and
transportation systems and must include projects or studies submitted to
the committee by any maritime port and recommendations for the
construction and cost-effective development of certain transportation
facilities. The committee submits the program to the governor, lieutenant
governor, House speaker, and the Texas Transportation Commission by
December 1 of each even-numbered year.

Interested parties have noted that there is overlap and similarity between
the duties of the Port Authority Advisory Committee and the port capital
program, and it has been suggested that their relationship and obligations
could be clarified.

DIGEST: HB 3207 would amend statute to consolidate the Port Authority Advisory Committee's reporting requirements.

The port capital program would be renamed as the maritime port mission plan. Information included in the program would be carried over to the plan, and the plan would be updated and submitted to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and Texas Transportation Commission by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

The bill would remove the requirement that the Port Authority Advisory Committee prepare a report every two years on Texas maritime ports that included project and funding information.

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.