

- SUBJECT:** Allowing certain municipalities to keep registries of vacant buildings
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Button, J. González, Goodwin, Middleton, Morales, Patterson
2 nays — Shaheen, Swanson
1 absent — E. Johnson
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 9 — 28-3 (Creighton, Hancock, Hughes)
- WITNESSES:** For — Catherine Gorman, City of Galveston; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brie Franco, City of Austin; TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor’s Office)
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code sec. 214.233 allows a municipality located in a county with a population of 2 million or more to adopt an ordinance requiring owners of vacant buildings to register their buildings by filing a registration form with a designated municipal official.
Interested parties have noted that allowing cities in smaller counties to keep such registries could help cities keep in touch with property owners and coordinate maintenance and upkeep of vacant buildings.
- DIGEST:** CSSB 1572 would allow a municipality located in a county that had a population of between 285,000 and 300,000 and that bordered the Gulf of Mexico (Galveston County) to adopt an ordinance that would allow but not require owners of vacant buildings to register their buildings by filing a registration form with a designated municipal official.
A municipality that adopted such an ordinance could not place a lien on a property solely because it was registered as a vacant building.

CSSB 1572 could not be construed to grant a municipality any authority other than the authority to adopt an ordinance described in the bill.

This 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.