

SUBJECT: Extending the ability to require municipal registration of vacant buildings

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Cortez, Bernal, Campos, Minjarez, Morales Shaw

2 nays — Gates, Slaton

2 absent — Holland, Jarvis Johnson

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Austin Holder, City of Lubbock)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Local Government Code section 214.233(a) allows municipalities located in counties with a population of at least 2 million to require owners to register vacant buildings with a city official.

It has been suggested that since registering vacant buildings helps municipalities to minimize threats to health and safety, the City of Lubbock would benefit from having the authority to require such registration.

DIGEST: HB 4245 would extend the ability to adopt an ordinance requiring owners of vacant buildings to register their buildings with a designated municipal official to a municipality with a population of at least 250,000 and located wholly in a county with a population of less than 320,000 that does not contain an international border (Lubbock).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.