

**SUBJECT:** Abolishing the office of marshal in a Type B general-law municipality

**COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Hill, Bailey, Ehrhardt, Staples, Thompson, Tillery, Woolley  
0 nays  
2 present, not voting — Conley, Davila

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, February 23 — voice vote

**WITNESSES:** For — G. W. Longserre, City of Thompson  
Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code sec. 22.076 allows Type A general-law municipalities to abolish by ordinance the office of marshal and transfer the duties of the marshal to a municipal police officer or county peace officer. Type B municipalities, which have population of 600 or less, lack such authority.

**DIGEST:** SB 563 would allow the governing body of a municipality with a population of less than 5,000 to abolish by ordinance the office of marshal and transfer the duties to any peace officer in the county. The bill would prohibit removing an elected marshal from office.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** Cities need the right to abolish the office of marshal. In the City of Thompson, for example, the office has not drawn a qualified marshal for over 15 years, and the city would like authority to abolish the office. Many elections have occurred with no peace officer candidate interested in being elected to the office. Furthermore, the position is costing taxpayers an unnecessary expense of nearly \$2,000 annually for liability insurance.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition.