

SUBJECT: Creating the Texas Affordable Housing Task Force

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Hill, Burnam, Clark, Ehrhardt, Hodge, Shields, Wohlgenuth
0 nays
1 present, not voting — Bailey
1 absent — Garcia

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, Local and Uncontested Calendar, April 28 — 31-0

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: SB 1852 would create the Texas Affordable Housing Task Force to identify and evaluate regulations and policies unnecessarily increasing the cost of constructing or rehabilitating affordable housing, creating barriers to affordable housing opportunities for low-income Texans, or otherwise limiting the availability of affordable housing.

Areas for focus would include zoning provisions, deed restrictions, impact fees and other development fees, permitting processes, restrictions on the use of affordable housing options, building codes, duplicative governmental authority over housing construction, and environmental regulations.

Before December 31, 1998, the task force would have to report to the governor, the presiding officers of the House and Senate, and appropriate state agencies on its findings and recommendations for revising regulations and policies to promote the availability of affordable housing.

The task force would be composed of 11 members appointed by the governor and the director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, who would serve as an ex-officio member. The task force would have to include one member representing each of the following: home builders, the apartment industry, land developers, cities with a population over 20,000, cities with a population under 20,000, the lending

industry, building code officials, public housing authorities, community housing development organizations, low-income housing residents, and the general public. Appointments would have provide for representation from different geographical regions of the state.

Members of the task force would elect a presiding officer, and meet at least quarterly at the call of the presiding officer. Members would not be entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs would provide staff support to the task force, and the task force could select and use other advisors in carrying out its duties. The task force would be abolished December 31, 1998.

SB 1852 would take effect September 1, 1997.