

SUBJECT: Revising composition of Harris County METRO board of directors

COMMITTEE: Transportation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Krusee, Phillips, Casteel, Deshotel, Hamric, Hill, West

0 nays

2 absent — Callegari, Flores

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — George DeMontrond

BACKGROUND: The Harris County Transportation Authority's (METRO's) board of directors currently consists of nine members, five of which are appointed by the mayor of Houston. Typically, when a new mayor is elected five new members are appointed to the board.

DIGEST: CSHB 2889 would change the composition of METRO's board to be nine members, including:

- three members appointed by the Houston mayor and confirmed by the Houston City Council;
- three members appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court;
- two members appointed by a panel of all mayors and county judges except the Houston mayor and Harris County judge; and
- one member jointly appointed by the Houston mayor, confirmed by City Council, and the Harris County Commissioners Court.

The bill would take immediate effect if passed by a two-thirds majority of the members of both houses. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2005.

NOTES: The committee substitute removed a provision in the original bill that would have allowed a city or county to withdraw itself from METRO with voter approval.