

**SUBJECT:** County hotel-occupancy tax in Brewster County

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Oliveira, Otto, Hilderbran, P. King, Paxton, Peña, Taylor, Villarreal

1 nays — C. Howard

2 absent — Bohac, Hartnett

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 11 — 31-0

**WITNESSES:** (*On House companion, HB 4781:*)  
For — Ron Sanders, Brewster County Tourism Council; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Scott Joslove, Texas Hotel and Lodging Association)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Tax Code, ch. 352 permits certain counties to levy a county hotel occupancy tax to promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry.

**DIGEST:** SB 2559 would amend Tax Code, sec. 352.002, to authorize a county that borders Mexico and in which a national park of more than 400,000 acres was located (Brewster County) to collect a hotel-occupancy tax of up to 7 percent. The bill would exempt hotels located in a municipality in Brewster County from the hotel occupancy tax imposed by the county if the municipality imposed a hotel tax.

The 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, 2009.

**NOTES:** The companion bill, HB 4781 by Gallego, passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar on May 12 and passed the Senate, as amended, by 30-0 on May 22.