

- SUBJECT:** Allowing persons with disabilities to be HUB contractors
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farrar, Geren, Harless, Huberty, Kuempel, Smithee, Sylvester Turner
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Farney, Oliveira
- WITNESSES:** For — Chase Bearden, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rona Statman, Texas Advocates; Melody Chatelle, United Ways of Texas; Chris Masey)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chuks Amajor, Comptroller)
- BACKGROUND:** Certain businesses can participate in the state's historically underutilized business (HUB) contracting program under Government Code, ch. 2161. At least 51 percent of the business must be owned by one or more persons who are economically disadvantaged because of the person's identification as a woman, a service-disabled veteran, or a member of certain racial minority groups.
- DIGEST:** HB 3010 would allow persons with a disability to participate in the state's HUB contracting program. Persons with a disability who owned a business and wanted to be certified as a HUB would be required to submit to the comptroller an affidavit from a physician verifying the owner's disability.
- The bill would require the comptroller, for reporting purposes, to add persons with a disability, as defined by federal statute, to the categories of groups included in the program report. The bill also would require the comptroller to adopt rules to provide goals for increasing the contract

awards to HUBs that qualified because they were owned by persons with a disability.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2015.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 3010 would provide economic opportunities for persons with a disability by allowing them to participate in the state's historically underutilized business (HUB) contracting program. Persons with a disability would have greater access to contracts with the state and other public entities. North Carolina already has added persons with a disability to its HUB contracting program.

Adding persons with a disability to the HUB contracting program would offer the state and other public entities a wider variety of choices when choosing a business with which to contract. The bill would not dilute the pool of HUBs because the number of businesses added to the contracting program would be small.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 3010 would dilute the pool of HUBs by adding another category of businesses. The Texas HUB program is struggling to meet its goals of increasing the number of contracts available to underutilized businesses. From fiscal 2013 to 2014, the share of all state money going to HUBs decreased slightly. Enlarging the pool of businesses that have access to contracts through the HUB program when the HUB-related expenditure percentage is shrinking would not make sense and would harm businesses the program intends to help.