

**SUBJECT:** Creating expedited procedures for addressing dangerous structures

**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Smithee, Farrar, Gutierrez, Laubenberg, Murr, Neave, Rinaldi, Schofield

0 nays

1 absent — Hernandez

**WITNESSES:** For — Zindia Thomas, Texas Municipal League; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ramiro Gonzalez, City of Brownsville; Tom Tagliabue, City of Corpus Christi; Lindsey Baker, City of Denton; Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; Jon Weist, City of Irving; Jeff Coyle, City of San Antonio; Nate Walker, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, sec. 214.001 authorizes a municipality to require the vacation, relocation of occupants, securing, repair, removal, or demolition of a substandard building if the building meets certain conditions.

Concerns have been raised that court proceedings for a municipality to address substandard buildings can take several years, during which time the buildings may continue to pose risks to communities' public health, safety, and welfare.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 1892 would require courts to expedite proceedings related to a municipality's determination that a structure was dangerously damaged, deteriorated, or otherwise substandard. Under the bill, an appeal would be governed by the procedures for accelerated appeals in civil cases under the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure. An appellate court would render its final order or judgment with the least possible delay.

This 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, 2017.