

- SUBJECT:** Prohibiting political subdivisions from regulating unmanned aircrafts
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Morrison, Martinez, Burkett, Y. Davis, Goldman, Israel, Phillips, Pickett, Simmons, E. Thompson, S. Thompson, Wray
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Minjarez
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Kelly Curbow, AT&T; Dana Chiodo, Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTI); Mark Vane, Consumer Technology Association; Amy Beard, DJI Technology; Jeffrey DeCoux, Hangar Technology; James Houck, Hillcountry Aeromodelers; Caroline Joiner, TechNet; Daniel Gonzalez, Texas Association of Realtors; Kyle Adams; Kristi Adams; Gabe Hodge)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* James Jones, San Antonio Police Department; Ruben Longoria, Texas Association of School Boards)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jesse Ozuna, City of Houston Mayor's Office)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that efforts by local governments to regulate the use of unmanned aircraft have resulted in a layer of ordinances that may conflict with those that already exist at the state and federal levels. The Federal Aviation Administration has established that aviation and the regulation of aircraft is the responsibility of the federal government. Some have called for greater consistency in the law on this issue.
- DIGEST:** HB 3238 would prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, order, or other similar measure regarding the ownership or operation of an unmanned aircraft, except in certain circumstances. A political subdivision would include a county,

municipality, or a board of public agencies acting jointly. A political subdivision could adopt a measure regarding:

- the political subdivision's use of an unmanned aircraft; or
- the use of an unmanned aircraft near a facility or infrastructure owned by the political subdivision if it applied for and received authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration to adopt the regulation and held a public hearing on its intent to apply for the authorization.

An ordinance, order, or other measure that was adopted or enforced in violation of the bill would be void and unenforceable.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.