

SUBJECT: Specifying the term of a chief administrative law judge

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 13 ayes — Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farrar, Geren, Guillen, K. King, Kuempel, Meyer, Oliveira, Paddie, E. Rodriguez, Smithee
0 nays

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 3 — 31-0

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Government Code, sec. 2003.022 places the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) under the direction of a chief administrative law judge appointed by the governor for a two-year term and makes the judge eligible for reappointment. Interested observers note the need to specify the expiration date of the chief administrative law judge's term to avoid confusion and bring predictability to the leadership of SOAH.

DIGEST: SB 528 would specify that the two-year term of the chief administrative law judge for the State Office of Administrative Hearings would expire on May 15 of each even-numbered year.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.