

SUBJECT: Revising eligibility for TDHCA homeless housing and services program

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Lozano, Gates, Bernal, Cortez, J. González

2 nays — Cunningham, Tepper

2 absent — Hayes, Romero

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tammy Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Cicely Kay, Travis County Commissioners Court; Maggie Armendariz; Madeline Doyle)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 2306.2585(a) authorizes the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to administer a homeless housing and services program in each municipality with a population of at least 285,500 to provide for the construction, development, or procurement of housing for homeless persons and to provide local programs to prevent and eliminate homelessness.

Some have suggested that decreasing the minimum population of a municipality in which the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs may administer a homeless housing and services program would allow more municipalities to receive help in serving their homeless populations.

DIGEST: HB 2131 would lower the minimum population of a municipality for which the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs could administer a homeless housing and services program from 285,500 to 250,000.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.