

SUBJECT: Creating an interstate compact for border security

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Hunter, Dean, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller

3 nays — Hernandez, Anchía, S. Thompson

2 absent — Raymond, Turner

WITNESSES: For — Sheena Rodriguez, Alliance for a Safe Texas; Brent Smith, Kinney County Attorney; Kelly Perry, SREC, TFRW, Moms For America National Board; Tom Glass, Texas Constitutional Enforcement; Calvin Tillman (*Registered, but did not testify*: Angela Smith, Fredericksburg Tea Party; Rachel Horton, Republican Party of Texas, State Republican Executive Committeewoman Sd30; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs Regional Director; Natalie Ibe, True Texas Project; Cindi Castilla, TX Eagle Forum; and six individuals)

Against — Alexis Bay; Zachary Kolodny (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ash Hall, ACLU of Texas; Irma Martinez, Veronica Mata, Border Workers United; David Stout, Elisa M. Tamayo, El Paso County; Jaime Puente, Every Texan; Bethany Carson, David Johnson, Sybil Sybille, Alicia Torres, Grassroots Leadership; Jennefer Canales-Pelaez, Immigrant Legal Resource Center; Carlos Alvarez, Nadia Briones, Evon Bueno, Joaquin Garcia, Blanca Munoz, Sergio Trevino, Victor Trevino, La Union del Pueblo Entero; Karina Alvarez, Laredo Immigrant Alliance; Samantha Serna Uribe, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Nataly Avendano, Mano Amiga; Geovanna Balderas, Dulce Garcia, MISMA; Sulma Franco, Helen Monroy Ortiz, Mujeres Luchadoras; Samuel Brannon, Southwestern Texas Synod ELCA; Alondra Andrade, Anna Katharina Dechert, Tahirih Justice Center; Alexis Bay, Roberto Lopez, Texas Civil Rights Project; Rocio Fierro-Perez, Carisa Lopez, Emily Witt, Texas Freedom Network; Joshua Houston, LyAnna Johnson, Texas Impact; Alexa Carranco, Ivonne Diaz, Manuel Guzman, Isabel

Herrera, Kyle Jacquez, Jasmine Tellez, Texas Rising; Janice Resendiz, Texas Rising Action; Fernando Garcia, Samantha Singleton, The Border Network for Human Rights; Priscilla Olivarez, The Immigrant Legal Resource Center; Sadie Hernandez, Transgender Education Network of Texas; Katie Naranjo, Cynthia Van Maanen, Travis County Democratic Party; Milo Grant, Natalie Webb, University Baptist Church, Austin, TX; Si Hwa, Hyang Sook Rhee, Joshua M. Na, John Kim, Kyou H. Kim (Paul Kim), Nicole Ma, Dona Murphey, Myoung Soon. Ryoo, Quynh-Huong Nguyen, Hyunja Norman, Steven Wu, Terry Yun, Yun Hwa Lee, Woori Juntos; Sarah Syed, Woori Juntos, NAKASEC; and 43 individuals)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Aaron Reitz, Office of the Attorney General; Shawn Hall Lecuona, The Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that an interstate compact for border enforcement could help to address gaps in existing federal border policy and strengthen states' capabilities to address continuing security issues at the border.

DIGEST: CSHB 82 would require the governor, on behalf of the state, to develop and execute an interstate compact for border security among interested states. The bill would specify that it was the intent of the Legislature that the compact not require congressional approval. The compact could not increase the political power of the compacting states in relation to the federal government.

The compact would be required to provide for joint action among compacting states on matters that included:

- sharing law enforcement intelligence on illegal activity occurring at the border with Mexico;
- sharing state resources in order to build a physical barrier, a comprehensive technological surveillance system, or both, on state land to deter or detect illegal activity occurring at the border with Mexico; and
- sharing other law enforcement resources to ensure the protection of

personnel and property.

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, 2023.