CHAPTER 667
H.B. No. 1544
AN ACT
relating to the authority of a county to contract with a private vendor for the operation of a detention facility.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 351.102, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 351.102. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT. The commissioners court of a county may contract with a private vendor to provide for the financing, design, construction, leasing, operation, purchase, maintenance, or management of a jail, detention center, work camp, or related facility. The commissioners court may not award a contract under this section unless the commissioners court requests proposals by public notice and not less than 30 days from such notice receives a proposal that meets or exceeds the requirements specified in the request for proposals. Before the commissioners court of a county enters into a contract under this section, the commissioners court of the county must receive the written approval of the sheriff of the county, which written approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, or if the county has a population of 2.8 million or more:

(1) consult with the sheriff regarding the feasibility of ensuring [ensure] that all services provided under the contract are required to meet or exceed standards set by the Commission on Jail Standards; or

(2) receive the written approval of the sheriff of the county, which written approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a contract entered into on or after the effective date of this Act. A contract entered into before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the contract was entered into, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 145, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 22, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 668
H.B. No. 1545
AN ACT
relating to a study regarding the use of certain public transportation services by persons with disabilities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. (a) In this Act, “providers” and “services” have the meanings assigned by Section 461.009, Transportation Code.

(b) The Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities, in coordination with providers located in rural and urban areas of the state, and paratransit advocacy groups, shall conduct a study to determine:

(1) the feasibility of standardizing the process of certifying an individual’s eligibility for services in the state; and