

By: Perez of Harris

H.B. No. 4337

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of pilots for the ports of Harris County and the board of pilot commissioners for those ports.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 66.002(3), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(3) "Harris County port" means a place in Harris or Chambers County into which a vessel using the Houston Ship Channel enters or from which a vessel using the Houston Ship Channel departs, and the waterway leading to that place from the Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 2. Section 66.012, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 66.012. PROHIBITED INTEREST. A person may not be a member of the board if the person, directly or indirectly, is engaged in or has an interest in any [~~pilot boat or in any other~~] business that may adversely affect [~~affected by or connected with~~] the performance of the person's duties as a pilot commissioner.

SECTION 3. Section 66.040(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A deputy branch pilot's certificate expires on the fourth [~~third~~] anniversary of the date it is issued and may [~~not~~] be renewed as provided by Section 66.042.

SECTION 4. Section 66.042, Transportation Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2           Sec. 66.042. DEPUTY BRANCH PILOT'S CERTIFICATE RENEWAL  
3 [~~PILOT~~]. A person who has been issued a deputy branch pilot's  
4 certificate may apply to renew the certificate if the deputy branch  
5 pilot is reappointed by a branch pilot as provided by Section 66.038  
6 [~~not be issued a deputy branch pilot's certificate before the fifth~~  
7 ~~anniversary of the date the person was previously issued a deputy~~  
8 ~~branch pilot's certificate]~~.

9           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.