

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 431
By: Van Arsdale
Transportation
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, there are nine members comprising the Board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County ("Metro") -- which is a creation of the Legislature. Five members are appointed by the Mayor of Houston and approved by the Houston City Council, two members are appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court, and two members are appointed by mayors of smaller cities in Metro's service area--leaving a majority of the Board (5 of 9 members) in control of the Houston Mayor.

Historically, the Board often makes decisions that coincide with each particular Mayor's wishes but that are at odds with the rest of the county, especially with regard to the availability of public transportation. CSHB 431 would adjust two of the principal municipality mayoral board appointments for governance of a metropolitan rapid transit authority in municipalities with a population of 1.2 million--by taking one of the five Mayor's appointments and making it a joint city council/county commissioners court appointment. This member would also serve as presiding officer of the board. In addition, CSHB 431 shifts a second principal municipality mayoral appointment to be appointed by the principal county. This would empower the transit authority to make decisions more closely aligned with regional transportation interests by giving it more autonomy and independence from the Mayor.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. CSHB 431 amends the Transportation Code, Section 451.502(a), to allow the mayor of the principal municipality to appoint three of the board members instead of five. The fourth member, who would serve as presiding officer of the board, would be appointed by a panel composed of the governing body of the principal municipality (i.e., city council) and the commissioners court of the principal county. Language is added to delineate how the joint appointment is made. The fifth member would be appointed by the commissioners court of the principal county.

SECTION 2. CSHB 431 clarifies Section 451.520(a) of the Transportation Code to exempt presiding officers selected through the proposed Section 451.502(a).

SECTION 3. Effective Date: September 1, 2003. Requires that the amended provisions be enacted in the following manner: the joint appointment would be made following the first vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1. The additional county appointment would be made following the second vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 431
By: Van Arsdale
Transportation
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, there are nine members comprising the Board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County ("Metro") -- which is a creation of the Legislature. Five members are appointed by the Mayor of Houston and approved by the Houston City Council, two members are appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court, and two members are appointed by mayors of smaller cities in Metro's service area--leaving a majority of the Board (5 of 9 members) in control of the Houston Mayor.

Historically, the Board often makes decisions that coincide with each particular Mayor's wishes but that are at odds with the rest of the county, especially with regard to the availability of public transportation. CSHB 431 would adjust two of the principal municipality mayoral board appointments for governance of a metropolitan rapid transit authority in municipalities with a population of 1.2 million--by taking one of the five Mayor's appointments and making it a joint city council/county commissioners court appointment. This member would also serve as presiding officer of the board. In addition, CSHB 431 shifts a second principal municipality mayoral appointment to be appointed by the principal county. This would empower the transit authority to make decisions more closely aligned with regional transportation interests by giving it more autonomy and independence from the Mayor.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. CSHB 431 amends the Transportation Code, Section 451.502(a), to allow the mayor of the principal municipality to appoint three of the board members instead of five. The fourth member, who would serve as presiding officer of the board, would be appointed by a panel composed of the governing body of the principal municipality (i.e., city council) and the commissioners court of the principal county. Language is added to delineate how the joint appointment is made. The fifth member would be appointed by the commissioners court of the principal county.

SECTION 2. CSHB 431 clarifies Section 451.520(a) of the Transportation Code to exempt presiding officers selected through the proposed Section 451.502(a).

SECTION 3. Effective Date: September 1, 2003. Requires that the amended provisions be enacted in the following manner: the joint appointment would be made following the first vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1. The additional county appointment would be made following the second vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 431
By: Van Arsdale
Transportation
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, there are nine members comprising the Board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County ("Metro") -- which is a creation of the Legislature. Five members are appointed by the Mayor of Houston and approved by the Houston City Council, two members are appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court, and two members are appointed by mayors of smaller cities in Metro's service area--leaving a majority of the Board (5 of 9 members) in control of the Houston Mayor.

Historically, the Board often makes decisions that coincide with each particular Mayor's wishes but that are at odds with the rest of the county, especially with regard to the availability of public transportation. CSHB 431 would adjust two of the principal municipality mayoral board appointments for governance of a metropolitan rapid transit authority in municipalities with a population of 1.2 million--by taking one of the five Mayor's appointments and making it a joint city council/county commissioners court appointment. This member would also serve as presiding officer of the board. In addition, CSHB 431 shifts a second principal municipality mayoral appointment to be appointed by the principal county. This would empower the transit authority to make decisions more closely aligned with regional transportation interests by giving it more autonomy and independence from the Mayor.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. CSHB 431 amends the Transportation Code, Section 451.502(a), to allow the mayor of the principal municipality to appoint three of the board members instead of five. The fourth member, who would serve as presiding officer of the board, would be appointed by a panel composed of the governing body of the principal municipality (i.e., city council) and the commissioners court of the principal county. Language is added to delineate how the joint appointment is made. The fifth member would be appointed by the commissioners court of the principal county.

SECTION 2. CSHB 431 clarifies Section 451.520(a) of the Transportation Code to exempt presiding officers selected through the proposed Section 451.502(a).

SECTION 3. Effective Date: September 1, 2003. Requires that the amended provisions be enacted in the following manner: the joint appointment would be made following the first vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1. The additional county appointment would be made following the second vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

In SECTION 1, the substitute amends the introduced version to allow the mayor of the principal municipality to appoint three of the board members instead of five. Of the remaining two appointments, one, who would serve as presiding officer of the board, would be appointed by a panel composed of the governing body of the principal municipality (i.e., city council) and the commissioners court of the principal county. The substitute adds additional language delineating how the joint appointment is made. The second would be appointed by the commissioners court of the principal county.

SECTION 2. No changes.

SECTION 3. Adds provision that the additional county appointment would be made following the second vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1.

September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

In SECTION 1, the substitute amends the introduced version to allow the mayor of the principal municipality to appoint three of the board members instead of five. Of the remaining two appointments, one, who would serve as presiding officer of the board, would be appointed by a panel composed of the governing body of the principal municipality (i.e., city council) and the commissioners court of the principal county. The substitute adds additional language delineating how the joint appointment is made. The second would be appointed by the commissioners court of the principal county.

SECTION 2. No changes.

SECTION 3. Adds provision that the additional county appointment would be made following the second vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1.

September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

In SECTION 1, the substitute amends the introduced version to allow the mayor of the principal municipality to appoint three of the board members instead of five. Of the remaining two appointments, one, who would serve as presiding officer of the board, would be appointed by a panel composed of the governing body of the principal municipality (i.e., city council) and the commissioners court of the principal county. The substitute adds additional language delineating how the joint appointment is made. The second would be appointed by the commissioners court of the principal county.

SECTION 2. No changes.

SECTION 3. Adds provision that the additional county appointment would be made following the second vacancy on the board of a metropolitan rapid transit authority from the municipality appointments created by the provisions outlined in SECTION 1.