

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 3272  
By: Gallego  
Border and International Affairs  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, port authority designation can only be given through the legislative process. Port Authority designation would create a legal entity through state statute to develop, administer, and oversee intermodal transportation. This transportation system could be very beneficial to certain counties in terms of economic stability and development. H.B. 3272 would allow a county with a population of less than 15,000 that is adjacent to an international boundary and contains a class A port of entry to create a port of entry authority (authority).

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. House Bill 3273 amends the Local Government Code to authorize the commissioners court of a county with a population of less than 15,000 that is adjacent to an international boundary and contains a class A port of entry to create a port of entry authority (authority). The bill provides that the jurisdiction of the port authority is coextensive with the jurisdiction of the county creating the authority.

H.B. 3272 provides for the authority to be governed by a board of directors and provides for the composition, membership, and operation of the board of directors. The bill sets for certain powers and duties of the board of directors.

H.B. 3272 authorizes the authority, if approved at an election held in the authority for that purpose, to impose an ad valorem tax on property and to issue bonds payable from the proceeds of the tax. The bill requires the county tax assessor-collector to assess and collect taxes for the authority and provides for the management of money collected by the authority. The bill requires the authority, at least once a year, to hire a certified public accountant to conduct an audit of its books, accounts, and records and provides for the commissioners court to examine the accounts and books of the authority if the audit does not occur.

H.B. 3272 authorizes the commissioners court to dissolve the authority at any time, unless the authority has outstanding indebtedness, and requires the county to resume the assets and liabilities of the authority on its dissolution.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon passage or, if it does not receive the necessary vote, this Act will be effective September 1, 2003.

