

Amend CSHB 2702 by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS accordingly:

SECTION _____. REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM REVIEW COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "region" means the region formed by two contiguous counties each containing a municipality having a population of at least 530,000 and the counties adjacent to one or both of those counties.

(b) The Regional Transit System Review Committee is created to conduct public hearings regarding, and study the implications of, implementing regional transit service in the region.

(c) The committee consists of:

(1) each member of the legislature who represents a district that contains territory in the region;

(2) each mayor of a municipality in the region;

(3) each county judge and commissioner in the region;
and

(4) the executive director of each transportation authority in the region.

(d) In conducting hearings and studies the committee shall:

(1) examine whether a seamless system of transit systems should be offered throughout the region;

(2) examine whether there should be a mechanism for additional counties to participate in the regional transit system;
and

(3) perform a review of funding and financing options.

(e) The initial meeting of the committee shall take place before September 30, 2005. At the initial meeting the committee shall adopt rules governing the committee and establish a work plan and schedule for future meetings.

(f) The committee may accept gifts, grants, technical support, or any other resources from any source to carry out the functions of the committee.

(g) Not later than September 1, 2006, the committee shall issue a report summarizing:

(1) hearings conducted by the committee;

(2) studies conducted by the committee;

(3) any legislation proposed by the committee; and

(4) any other findings or recommendations of the committee.

(h) This section expires September 1, 2007.