

1-1 By: Menéndez S.B. No. 1837
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2015; March 25, 2015, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
 1-4 April 30, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 30, 2015,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1837 By: Huffines

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to requiring certain metropolitan rapid transit
 1-22 authorities to hold a referendum before spending any money for a
 1-23 fixed rail transit system.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 451, Transportation Code,
 1-26 is amended by adding Section 451.073 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 451.073. REFERENDUM FOR RAIL PLAN; CERTAIN
 1-28 AUTHORITIES. (a) This section applies only to an authority
 1-29 created before 1980 in which the principal municipality has a
 1-30 population of less than 1.9 million.

1-31 (b) Before the authority may spend any funds to purchase,
 1-32 acquire, construct, operate, or maintain any form of a fixed rail
 1-33 transit system, the authority must hold a referendum on whether the
 1-34 authority may operate a fixed rail transit system. At the election
 1-35 the ballots shall be printed to permit voting for or against the
 1-36 following proposition: "The operation of a fixed rail system by
 1-37 (name of authority)."

1-38 (c) The notice of an election called under this section must
 1-39 include a general description of the form of the fixed rail transit
 1-40 system, including the general location of any proposed routes.

1-41 (d) If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the
 1-42 proposition, the authority may build and operate the system as
 1-43 provided in the notice for the election. If less than a majority of
 1-44 the votes cast are in favor of the proposition, the authority may
 1-45 not expend funds of the authority to purchase, acquire, construct,
 1-46 operate, or maintain any form of a fixed rail transit system unless
 1-47 the system is approved by a majority of the votes cast at a
 1-48 referendum held by the authority for that purpose.

1-49 (e) A subsequent referendum under Subsection (d):

1-50 (1) may be held more than once;

1-51 (2) is held in the same manner as the initial
 1-52 referendum; and

1-53 (3) may not be held before the first anniversary of an
 1-54 election previously held under this section.

1-55 (f) Approval of a fixed rail transit system at an election
 1-56 called under this section preempts any requirement in a municipal
 1-57 charter that, for the system approved, requires a municipal
 1-58 election to be held before the municipality may:

1-59 (1) grant permission to alter or damage any public way
 1-60 of the municipality for the construction of the system; or

