

By: Canales

H.B. No. 4434

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to navigation districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 5007.001, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5007.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Authority" means the Port of Houston Authority of Harris County, Texas.

(2) "Executive director" means the executive director of the authority.

(3) "Port commission" means the navigation and canal commission of the authority.

(4) "Port commissioner" means a member of the port commission.

(5) "Harbormaster" means an official who supervises operations in the Houston Ship Channel and administers its rules.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 60, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 60.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 60.005. WIDENING AND DEEPENING. A district may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source for the purposes of widening and deepening navigable channels of the district.

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

1           Sec. 66.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

2           (1) "Board" means the board of pilot commissioners for  
3 Harris County ports.

4           (2) "Consignee" means a person, including a master,  
5 owner, agent, subagent, firm, or corporation or any combination of  
6 those persons, who enters or clears a vessel at the office of the  
7 collector of customs.

8           (3) "Harbormaster" means an official who supervises  
9 operations in a Harris County port and administers its rules.

10           (4) "Harris County port" means a place in Harris  
11 County into which a vessel enters or from which a vessel departs and  
12 the waterway leading to that place from the Gulf of Mexico.

13           (5) "Pilot" means a person who is licensed as a branch  
14 pilot or certified as a deputy branch pilot under this chapter.

15           (6) "Pilotage rate" means the remuneration a pilot may  
16 lawfully charge a vessel for pilot services.

17           (7) "Pilot services" means acts of a pilot in  
18 conducting a vessel through the navigable water in this state and  
19 the ports in which the pilot is licensed or certified as a pilot.

20           (8) "Vessel" means an oceangoing, self-propelled  
21 vessel.

22           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.