

H.B. No. 2510

AN ACT

relating to the creation, administration, powers, duties, operations, and financing of a commuter rail district; granting the authority to issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 13, Title 112, Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Article 6550c-3 to read as follows:

Art. 6550c-3. COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICTS

Sec. 1. DEFINITIONS. In this article:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Transportation Commission.

(2) "Commuter rail facility" means any property necessary for the transportation of passengers and baggage between points in a district. The term includes rolling stock, locomotives, stations, parking areas, and rail lines.

(3) "Creating county" means a county described by Section 2(b) of this article.

(4) "Department" means the Texas Department of Transportation.

(5) "District" means a commuter rail district created under this article.

(6) "District property" means all property the district

owns or leases under a long-term lease.

(7) "System" means all of the commuter rail and intermodal facilities leased or owned by or operated on behalf of a district.

Sec. 2. CREATION OF COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT. (a) A commuter rail district may be created to provide commuter rail service to counties along the Texas-Mexico border.

(b) The commissioners court of a county may create a commuter rail district on adoption of an order favoring the creation.

Sec. 3. BOARD. (a) A district is governed by a board of directors. The board is responsible for the management, operation, and control of the district.

(b) The board is composed of five members. The county judge appoints one member and each county commissioner appoints one member. Each member serves a term of four years. The board may provide for the staggering of the terms of its members.

(c) The members of the board shall elect one member as presiding officer. The presiding officer may select another member to preside in the absence of the presiding officer.

(d) The presiding officer shall call at least one meeting of the board each year and may call other meetings as the presiding officer determines are appropriate.

(e) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation for serving as a member but is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred while serving as a member.