

SUBJECT: Allowing Dallas County to create supplemental civil service commissions

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Coleman, Bohac, Anderson, Cole, Dominguez, Huberty,
Rosenthal

2 nays — Biedermann, Stickland

WITNESSES: For — Charles Reed, Dallas County Commissioners Court; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Gabriela Villareal, Texas Conference of Urban Counties)

Against — Charley Wilkison, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

BACKGROUND: Local Government Code secs. 158.003 and 158.004 allow certain counties to create a civil service system. Sec. 158.008 requires the commissioners courts of counties that create such a system to appoint members of a civil service commission to administer the system.

DIGEST: HB 3910 would allow a county with a population of more than 2 million that is adjacent to a county with a population of more than 1 million that has already created a civil service system (Dallas County) to establish one or more supplemental commissions to assist the civil service commission in administering the civil service system.

The county's commissioners court would appoint three individuals to serve as members of each supplemental commission and would have to designate one of the members as chair.

The bill would organize matters within the purview of a civil service commission into categories and require a supplemental commission to adopt, publish, or enforce rules delegated by category to the supplemental commission by the commissioners court. If the commissioners court established more than one supplemental commission, the court could not

delegate authority over a category to more than one supplemental commission. The civil service commission could not adopt rules regarding categories that had been delegated to supplemental commissions.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 3910 would allow the Dallas County civil service commission to address its heavy workload by delegating some of its authority. Currently the county has only one three-member commission to deal with the civil service matters relating to thousands of employees. To address concerns about grievance-bearers seeking out the commission that might be most amenable to their claim, the bill explicitly would prohibit more than one commission or supplemental commission from hearing issues related to the same category of rules.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 3910 would expand the powers and authority of a civil service commission that already is unnecessary. The possibility of multiple committees dealing with civil service issues raises the likelihood of “venue-shopping,” which could lead to unfair and ineffective administration of the civil service system.