

- SUBJECT:** Expanding services provided by a colonia self-help center
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Cortez, Holland, Bernal, Campos, Gates, Jarvis Johnson, Minjarez, Slaton
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Morales Shaw
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Homero Cabello, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 2306.586 establishes that the purpose of a colonia self-help center is to assist individuals and families of low and very low income to finance, refinance, construct, improve, or maintain a safe, suitable home in the colonias' designated service area or another area the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs deems suitable.
- Concerns have been raised that while colonia self-help centers have been helpful in assisting colonia residents with home and property issues, these residents lack adequate resources and education to develop professional skills and achieve financial literacy.
- DIGEST:** HB 1301 would expand the purposes of a colonia self-help center to include improvement of living conditions in the relevant area(s). The bill also would specify that a colonia self-help center could pursue this purpose by helping low-income individuals to develop professional skills and achieve financial literacy.

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The bill would take effect September 1, 2021