

**SUBJECT:** Requiring the state to observe daylight saving time year-round

**COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 11 ayes — Hunter, Hernandez, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Raymond, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller, S. Thompson, Turner

0 nays

2 absent — Anchía, Dean

**WITNESSES:** For — Erika Boyd, Texas Travel Alliance (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ron Hinkle, Texas Travel Alliance; Carolyn Albert Donovan; Justin Bragiel; Nicole Haldeman; Daniel Hodge; Jorge Martinez)

Against — Oscar Rodriguez, Texas Association of Broadcasters (*Registered, but did not testify*: Linda Durnin; Keith Yancey)

**DIGEST:** HB 1422 would require the state to observe daylight saving time year-round.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023. The bill would not take effect unless the United States Congress enacted legislation authorizing the state to observe daylight saving time year-round.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 1422 would move Texans closer to no longer having to change clocks twice per year. Observing the time change is inconvenient and disruptive, and may make strokes and heart attacks more likely. Observing daylight saving time year round would provide more daylight hours after the working day, allowing families more opportunities for outdoor activities, shopping, and travel. Permanent daylight saving time also would help drivers avoid the danger of driving to and from work at times of direct glare from the low sun at sunrise and sunset, respectively.

Many other states have already decided to observe year-round daylight saving time if federal law allows, so Texas would not be uniquely out of

sync with the time zone system if HB 1422 was enacted.

CRITICS  
SAY:

If HB 1422's implementation of year-round daylight saving time went into effect, broadcast media could be negatively affected. Year-round daylight saving time would disrupt time zone uniformity, making it more difficult for local television stations to manage viewing and marketing schedules for international and nationwide live broadcasts of major sporting, political, and other events.

Some AM radio stations are required by the FCC to turn off their transmitters from sunset to sunrise. Year-round daylight saving time would require these stations to be off the air during morning drive time, and in some cases listeners would not be able to receive information on weather and school closings in a timely manner. Other AM stations would be required to operate with reduced power during the same period, reducing their ability to compete for advertising revenue

OTHER  
CRITICS  
SAY:

While avoiding the annual time changes is desirable, for health and safety reasons, Texas should move to year-round standard time, not daylight saving time. Standard time aligns with natural human circadian rhythms, with sunrise coinciding with waking. Permanent daylight saving time would cause children to spend more time waiting for school buses in the dark morning hours. Federal law already allows states to opt out of daylight saving time, so the state could stop changing the clocks without waiting for legislation at the national level.