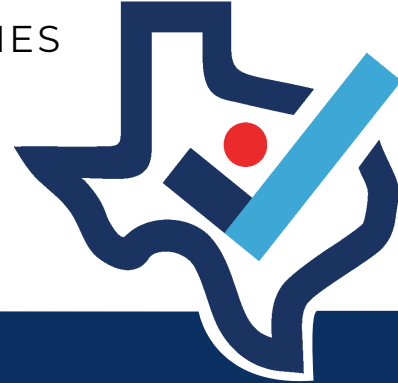


House Bill (HB) 140

Rep. Mary González



HB 140 would require the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to operate a co-navigation services program for the deaf-blind. These services help an individual to physically access their environment and make informed decisions.



About **2,500 Texans** are deaf-blind — living with a dual sensory loss of hearing and vision. Some of these are adults striving to live as independently as possible, but they face many barriers to participating in activities that most of us take for granted.



Co-Navigators will work with deaf-blind individuals and assist them to autonomously handle daily living and civic activities, including shopping, banking, and attending medical appointments and community and civic events.



In a report to the Legislature, the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) **unanimously** recommended the establishment of a co-navigator program at HHSC.

"This bill is critical to the well-being and connection by deaf-blind persons with society and affords them the opportunity to more fully participate in life and social activities."

Public comment to the House Human Services Committee on an identical bill, April 2021

