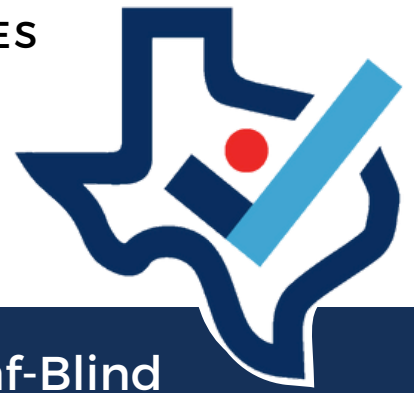


# House Bill (HB) 645

Rep. Mary González



## Co-Navigation Services for People who are Deaf-Blind

HB 645 would require the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to operate a co-navigation services program for people who are deaf-blind. These services help an individual 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 are adults who strive to live as independently as possible, but they face many barriers to participate 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, community gatherings, 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 a bill identical to HB 645, April 2021

