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## Media Advisory: Hearing of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

**WHO:** Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., Chair  
Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Donna Campbell  
Sen. Sylvia Garcia  
Sen. José Menéndez  
Sen. Robert Nichols  
Sen. Larry Taylor

**WHAT:** Public hearing of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

**WHEN:** Monday, Aug. 15, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Texas Capitol Extension, Room E1.012

**Ballot integrity:** *The committee will be taking testimony on home rule municipalities' handling of voter referendum petitions, an interim charge Sen. Bettencourt requested from Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in August 2015. The senator called for this ballot integrity study due to the City of Houston's recent use of deceptive ballot language and continual erring on election procedure regarding ballot petitions and referendums. This continues to be a statewide issue, affecting cities like Austin and San Marcos, for example. Interested parties from around the State will be in attendance Monday as the committee takes up this issue.*

**Debt transparency:** *The committee will also be hearing testimony on local government debt transparency, another interim charge Sen. Bettencourt requested of Lt. Gov. Patrick last fall. The committee will be discussing ways to provide more information to taxpayers when they vote on bond propositions. Sen. Bettencourt first took action to address this issue last session by authoring SB 1041. Among its provisions, the bill would have required that taxpayers voting in a bond approval election be provided key information about local debt and what paying back the bonds up for approval would cost them in taxes. The senator's office will file legislation on this issue again in the upcoming legislative session.*

**Special districts, housing:** *The committee will also be discussing interim charges relating to municipal management district creation and statutes that govern the Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in Inclusive Communities Project, Inc. v. TDHCA, et al.*

For more information, please visit the [Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee](#) online.

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