

ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW CONFERENCE



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RECENT AMENDMENT TO TRANSP. CODE 66.011:

THE BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PORTS OF HARRIS COUNTY
AND HOW IT MIGHT IMPACT THE ADMIRALTY BAR

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Sec. 66.003. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. This chapter applies only to a Harris County port.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS

Sec. 66.011. BOARD. The board of pilot commissioners for the ports of Harris County is composed of nine pilot commissioners appointed as follows:

- (1) two pilot commissioners appointed by a majority of the city council of the City of Houston;
- (2) two pilot commissioners appointed by a majority of the Harris County Commissioners Court;
- (3) one pilot commissioner appointed by the city council of the City of Pasadena, who must reside in the city of Pasadena;
- (4) one pilot commissioner appointed by a majority of the Harris County Mayors' and Councils' Association, who must be a resident of a municipality in Harris County that is located adjacent to the Houston Ship Channel and has a population of less than 100,000;
- (5) two pilot commissioners appointed by the governor; and
- (6) the chair of the board, appointed as described by Section 66.0116.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Amended by:

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1346 (S.B. 1915), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 66.0115. QUALIFICATIONS; VACANCY. (a) Except as otherwise provided by Sections 66.011 and 66.0116, each pilot commissioner must be a property tax payer and a qualified voter in Harris County.

(b) A person is not eligible for appointment to the board if the person:

- (1) has previously served the equivalent of at least 12 full years on the board; or
- (2) is currently serving or has previously served as a port commissioner for the Port of Houston Authority of Harris County, Texas.

(c) Not later than the 45th day after the date on which a term expires or on which a vacancy on the board begins, the appointing entity must appoint a new pilot commissioner. If the appointing entity fails to

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Who are the Houston Pilots?

- 100 Pilots (81 Branch/19 deputies)
- Safely guide over 20,000 ships into the busiest port in the US every year (more than the Ports of Los Angeles + Long Beach + NY combined)
- Required by Texas state statute to guide deep draft ships into Harris County ports.
- Governed by Board of Pilot Commissioners for Ports of Harris County – similar to utility

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