

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

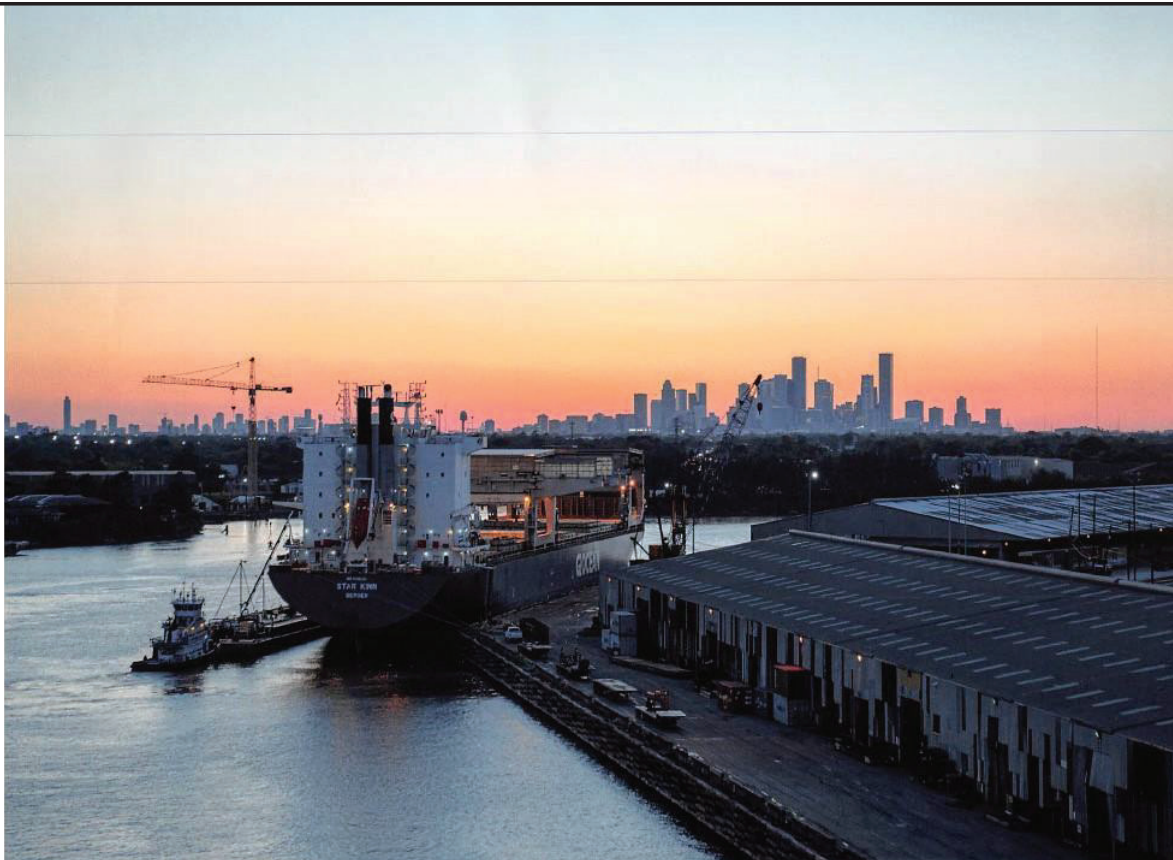
## Who are the Houston Pilots?

- 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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