

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

Sec. 66.013. OATH. Before beginning service as a board member, each board member must take and sign, before a person authorized to administer oaths, an oath to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of the office.

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

Sec. 66.014. TERM OF OFFICE. Pilot commissioners other than the chair serve staggered terms of two years that expire on February 1.

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. 5, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 66.015. JURISDICTION. The board has exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of pilots who provide pilot services in Harris County ports, including intermediate stops and landing places for vessels on navigable streams wholly or partially located in the board's jurisdiction.

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. 6, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 66.016. ADMINISTRATION; RULES. (a) The board shall administer this chapter and may perform any act or function necessary to carry out its powers and duties under this chapter.

(b) The board may adopt rules to carry out this chapter.

Text of subsection as added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1346 (S.B. 1915), Sec. 7

(c) Rules under this chapter involving the adoption and implementation of ship movement strategies, including navigation safety guidelines, for use by pilots in the navigable water in this state may be made only on a recommendation from not less than 80 percent of the pilots authorized to operate under the board's jurisdiction.

Text of subsection as added by Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1347 (S.B. 2223), Sec. 2

(c) The board may adopt a rule under this chapter involving ship movement strategies, including navigation safety guidelines, for use by pilots in the navigable water in this state only on a recommendation from not less than 80 percent of the pilots authorized to operate under the board's jurisdiction.

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. 7, eff. September 1, 2019.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1347 (S.B. 2223), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2019.

Sec. 66.017. DUTIES. The board shall:

- (1) establish the number of pilots necessary to provide adequate pilot services for each Harris County port;
- (2) accept applications for pilot licenses and certificates and determine whether each applicant meets the qualifications for a pilot;
- (3) submit to the governor lists of applicants the board finds to be qualified for appointment as pilots;
- (4) establish pilotage rates;
- (5) approve the locations for pilot stations;
- (6) establish times during which pilot services will be available;
- (7) hear and determine complaints relating to the conduct of pilots;
- (8) recommend to the governor each pilot whose license or certificate should not be renewed or should be revoked;
- (9) adopt rules and issue orders to pilots or vessels when necessary to secure efficient pilot services, including minimizing the interference of two-way routes;
- (10) institute investigations or hearings or both to consider casualties, accidents, or other actions that violate this chapter; and
- (11) provide penalties to be imposed on a person who is not a pilot for a Harris County port who pilots a vessel into or out of the port if a pilot offered those services to the vessel.

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