



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 21-6486, **Version:** 1

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**Department:** County Judge

**Department Head/Elected Official:** Lina Hidalgo, Harris County Judge

**Regular or Supplemental RCA:** Regular RCA

**Type of Request:** Policy

**Project ID** (if applicable):

**Vendor/Entity Legal Name** (if applicable):

**MWDBE Participation** (if applicable):

**Request Summary (Agenda Caption):**

Request for discussion and possible action to establish the Harris County Essential Workers Board (HCEWB), adopt the HCEWB Bylaws of November 30, 2021, and direct the Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity to launch the HCEWB, as provided in the backup to this agenda item.

**Background and Discussion:**

The purpose of the HCEWB is to provide feedback and recommendations to the Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity (DEEO) and other relevant Harris County Departments and, where appropriate, serve in an advisory capacity to Commissioners Court on Harris County programs, policies, and initiatives that recognize and support workers.

**Expected Impact:**

Essential Workers are uniquely positioned to identify and recommend solutions to workplace issues, as they have first-hand insights into hazards and issues workers face on the job. Creating the HCEWB to advise Harris County on programs and policies to improve the health and economic outcomes of Essential Workers and the overall public.

The DEEO will use \$16,850 of its existing FY 21-22 budget to hire a temporary staff member or consultant to launch and support the initial activities of the HCEWB for the remainder of this fiscal year.

The DEEO will request funding for the 7-month Fiscal Year (March 2022-October 2022) through the County's annual budget process; this includes \$99,667 to continue funding a temporary staff member or consultant(s) and costs associated with hosting HCEWB meetings, as well as \$25,000 for operating expenses, including equipment, supplies, and other non-recurring expenditures to be utilized by the HCEWB and other DEEO programs. If the Court does not approve these requests through the FY budget development process, the DEEO may need to request additional funding to support the activities of the HCEWB.

**Alternative Options:**

**Alignment with Goal(s):**

- Justice and Safety
- Economic Opportunity
- Housing
- Public Health
- Transportation
- Flooding
- Environment
- Governance and Customer Service

**Prior Court Action (if any):**

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken

**Location:**

Address (if applicable):

Precinct(s): Countywide

<b>Fiscal and Personnel Summary</b>			
Service Name			
	FY 21-22	FY 22	Next 3 FYs
<b>Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)</b>			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Incremental Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)</b>			
<b>Existing Budget</b>			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Current Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Additional Budget Requested</b>			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$

Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Funding Sources</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Personnel</b> (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
<b>Total Personnel</b>	-	-	-

**Anticipated Implementation Date:** December 2021

**Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note:** Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

**Contact(s) name, title, department:** Vanessa Toro Barragan, Senior Policy Advisor, County Judge's Office;  
Diana Ramirez, Director, Equity Impact, Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity

**Attachments** (if applicable):