

TAB Testimony to House State Affairs Committee, 3-22-23

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

I'm Oscar Rodriguez, President of the Texas Association of Broadcasters respectfully testifying against HB 1422.

While the bill, in our estimation, would be improved if it provided an assurance that the state would continue to observe whatever national time zone framework is in place, we have concerns that observing Daylight Saving Time year-round would have an enormously negative impact on many of our AM Radio stations and their listeners.

Local AM Radio stations' hours of on-air operation vary depending on the observance (or non-observance) of DST. This is because some AM stations (called "day-timers") are required by the FCC to turn off their transmitter from sunset until sunrise to avoid interference with distant stations which may not even be in Texas.

Depending on the time of year, these stations would be required to be off the air during much of the valuable morning drive time. Because of the size of the state, these times vary from East Texas to West Texas by 30 or so minutes. In Central Texas (assuming year-round DST) most AM stations would be off the air or running with greatly reduced coverage until morning sunrise. In January, these stations could not sign on or operate with full power until 8:30AM.

A sign-on this late means that listeners who depend on a station for school closings and the day's weather information would not even be on the air until it would be too late for the information to be useful.

Most full-time AM stations operate with reduced power or a directional signal from sunset to sunrise. Moving the clock an hour ahead of the sun (as DST does) means that the switch from *nighttime* to *daytime* power and directionality is delayed by an hour. That delay would greatly reduce the ability of AM Radio stations to compete for advertising in the most important part of the broadcast day.

For local Television stations, inconsistent observance of DST would greatly disrupt viewing and marketing of nationwide live broadcasts of sporting, political, entertainment and awards events. Pre-recorded programs would need an additional time slot in network promotions (Eastern, Central, Texas).

International sporting events, such as the Olympics and the World Cup, are planned and scheduled many years in advance with much consideration of U.S. viewing times. Having to set guides for individual states would exacerbate the frustrations of live competitions airing at unusual and inconvenient times.

Finally, being out of sync with neighboring states could be particularly problematic for communities in media markets that cross state lines, such as El Paso, Odessa-Midland, Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Sherman and Texarkana, complicating business marketing and programming for their audiences and advertisers.

Those are our concerns with year-round Daylight Saving Time. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.