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Posted: 11:02 a.m. Friday, April 4, 2014

Joe Weber, Texas A&M executive and retired Marine general, to lead TxDOT

By Ben Wear

American-Statesman Staff

Joe Weber, Texas A&M's vice president of student affairs and a retired three-star Marine general, will be the new executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation.

The Texas Transportation Commission, on a 4-0 vote, approved the hiring Friday morning. Weber, 63, who was making \$250,000 a year at A&M, will be paid \$273,000 a year, the commission decided. His predecessor, Phil Wilson, who left in February for a job running the Lower Colorado River Authority, was paid the statutory maximum of \$292,500.

Commissioner Victor Vandergriff was out of town and did not participate in the vote.

Weber will take over April 23 from interim executive director James Bass, commission Chairman Ted Houghton said after the vote.

Weber, a Texas A&M graduate and close friend of Gov. Rick Perry since their days together at the university, served in the Marines for 36 years, and was commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command when he mustered out as a lieutenant general. He moved to the A&M job shortly thereafter.

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