

- SUBJECT:** Hamshire Municipal Utility District in Jefferson County
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Yost, Combs, Corte, King, R. Lewis, Stiles, Walker  
0 nays  
2 absent — Counts, Puente
- WITNESSES:** None
- BACKGROUND:** Municipal utility districts (MUDs) are created by the Legislature to control and distribute storm, flood, and river water for irrigation, power and other purposes; reclamation and irrigation of arid land; drainage; conservation and development of hydro-electric power; conservation of forests; navigation; protection of the state's water purity and sanitation; the disposal of waste; the supplying of water, alteration of land elevations; and the provision of recreational facilities.
- The Legislature is authorized to create MUDs in Texas Constitution Art. 16, sec. 59. MUDs are governed by Water Code Chapters 50 and 54.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1531 would create the Hamshire Municipal Utility District in Jefferson County, subject to voter approval to confirm the district's establishment and the seven initial directors named in the bill. Directors would be elected to serve staggered four-year terms. The district would have all authority granted under Art. 16, sec. 59 of the Constitution.
- In addition to, or in lieu of, an ad valorem tax, the district could levy a special benefits tax taxing the special benefit received by property as a result of the district. The bill would take immediate effect if approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house.
- NOTES:** The committee substitute for HB 1531 clarifies boundary lines, specifies additional powers and duties, including the section relating to maintenance taxes, and includes other nonsubstantive language additions and changes to conform to Legislative Council style.