

SUBJECT: Eligibility to serve on an appraisal district board of directors

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Oliveira, McCall, Bonnen, Y. Davis, Heflin, Hilbert, Keffer, T. King, Ramsay

0 nays

2 absent — Craddick, Sadler

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Eligibility to serve as a member of an appraisal district's board of directors (board) is defined by sec. 6.03, Tax Code. For every county but one, people are eligible to serve on the board if they:

- ! are residents of the district;
- ! have resided in the district for two years immediately preceding the date they take office; and
- ! are not employees of a taxing unit unless they are also an elected official or a member of the governing body of a taxing unit.

County tax assessor-collectors serve as nonvoting directors of their respective boards unless they are appointed to the board. Elected officials may serve on the board, as well as ordinary citizens.

Legislation passed in 1991 changed the eligibility to serve on the board of a county with a population of 200,000 or more, that borders on a county with a population of 2,000,000 or more and the Gulf of Mexico. Galveston County is the only such county. In that county, appraisal district board membership is limited to individuals who are elected officers of taxing units.

DIGEST: HB 834 would delete the provision applicable only to Galveston County from sec. 6.03(a), Tax Code, relating to the eligibility to serve on the board of directors of an appraisal district.

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SUPPORTERS
SAY: There is no a reason for Galveston County to have unique eligibility requirements for its appraisal district board. Galveston County 's taxing units should be able to select ordinary citizens to serve on the board, as well as elected officers of taxing units, the way it is done in every other county.

OPPONENTS
SAY: No apparent opposition.