
SUBJECT: Powers and duties of the Red River Redevelopment Authority

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Ramsay, G. Lewis, B. Brown, Chisum, Farabee, Krusee, Salinas, Swinford

0 nays

1 absent — Hilderbran

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, Local and Uncontested Calendar, April 19 — 30-0

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: SB 1930 by Ratliff, enacted last session, created the Red River Redevelopment Authority and authorized it to accept title to the land and property of the Red River Army Depot from the U.S. Department of Defense. The purpose of the authority is to promote the location and development of new businesses and industries on the depot site. The law did not authorize the authority to provide utility services to potential commercial and industrial tenants on the property.

DIGEST: SB 1794 would clarify the powers, duties, and purpose of the Red River Redevelopment Authority, validate its creation, establishment, and organization, and authorize it to provide natural gas, electricity, solid waste disposal, steam generation, communications, and other utility services, exercising the same powers granted to municipalities to provide utilities. The authority would be able to issue revenue bonds and to contract, by competitive bidding or negotiation, with any person or entity to carry out eligible projects.

The bill would authorize Bowie County to transfer to the authority all assets acquired from the United States Department of the Army or the state of Texas for the development, redevelopment, maintenance, or expansion of the property together with any unused funds from those governmental entities. The bill would authorize expansion of the boundaries of the authority as additional real property was conveyed to it by the federal government. The

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authority would be able to accept title to the property adjacent to, or related to, the tract of land specified in the bill.

SB 1794 would state that the Red River Redevelopment Authority has been created in order to promote, develop, encourage, and maintain employment, commerce, economic development, and the public welfare, and to conserve natural resources in an area previously used by the United States government for military support. SB 1794 also would state that the authority was subject to liability, open meetings and open records requirements, and the regulatory authority of the state or any agencies to the same extent as a municipality. The bill would make changes and clarifications to the rules for establishing a governing board for the authority.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

The redevelopment of the Red River Army Depot property depends on the ability of the Red River Redevelopment Authority, which was created last session, to provide utility services to potential commercial and industrial tenants. The viability of the authority depends on generation of revenue from these utilities. This bill would allow the authority to receive title to existing utilities on the property from the federal government, and to operate all utility systems on the property.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.