

SUBJECT: Emergency services board members finishing term after annexation

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Lewis, W. Smith, Casteel, Chisum, Flynn, Olivo, Quintanilla
0 nays
2 absent — Farabee, Farrar

WITNESSES: For — *(Registered, but did not testify)*: Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Glen Whitley, Tarrant County; Mark Mendez, Travis County Commissioners Court.

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code, sec. 775.034, requires the commissioners court of a county containing a single emergency services district to appoint five members to a board of emergency services. It also requires that a member be either a qualified voter within the district or own land taxed by it.

DIGEST: HB 1108 would amend the Health and Safety Code, section 775.034, to permit an emergency services board member disqualified from serving on the board because municipal annexation had resulted in the member's no longer residing in the district or owning land subject to the district's taxation to finish out his or her term of office.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.

SUPPORTERS SAY: City limits shift frequently due to annexation, which can make emergency services board members ineligible to continue board service, even though their place of residence did not change. HB 1108 would allow such board members to serve out their terms in order to give the county commissioners courts sufficient time to appoint replacements, which can be a difficult task in less populated districts. Board member ineligibility caused by annexation can make it difficult for boards to conduct business due to lack of a quorum or lack of a clear majority to decide issues. This bill would remedy such

HB 1108
House Research Organization
page 2

situations and enable emergency services boards to maintain consistency in their work and policies.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.