

- SUBJECT:** Elections for the use of tax revenue for a sports or community venue
- COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Keffer, Ritter, Otto, Bonnen, Paxton, Pena, Pitts  
0 nays  
2 absent — Y. Davis, Flores
- WITNESSES:** For — Peter Tart, City of Laredo. (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rosario C. Cabello, City of Laredo)  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, sec. 334.024 permits a municipality or county to hold an election on a resolution authorizing the planning, acquisition, development, construction, or renovation of a sports or community venue provided the project will have no major fiscal impact on state revenue. An election authorized for these purposes must:
- designate the project and allow for a vote separately on each venue project; and
  - designate the proposed methods of financing and allow for a vote on each method that the municipality or county wants to use to finance the project and the maximum rate of each.
- Current statutory provisions do not expressly authorize local governments to hold an election to reassign a portion of tax proceeds from a venue project for the improvement or maintenance of a facility after its original authorization.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1524 would add Local Government Code, sec. 334.0242 to allow a governing body of a municipality or county to call an election on the use of revenue from approved methods for financing a venue project. If approved, a municipality or county could use the revenue to finance a related venue project. The ballot would be based on model language in the bill, allowing voters to authorize a percentage of tax revenue or a dollar amount from the specified tax to finance the related project. A

municipality or county could not change the tax rate previously authorized in the original election approving the venue.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.