

- SUBJECT:** Allowing certain emergency services districts to create new districts
- COMMITTEE:** County Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Coleman, Bohac, Anderson, Biedermann, Dominguez, Rosenthal, Stickland
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Cole, Huberty
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 3 — 30-1 (Fallon), on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — John Carlton, Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code ch. 775, subch. B governs the creation of emergency services districts.
- Interested parties have noted that several emergency services districts in Harris County provide both fire and emergency medical services and have suggested that in some cases, two separate districts could be more effective and efficient.
- DIGEST:** SB 1579 would allow the board of an emergency services district located in a county with a population of more than 3.3 million (Harris County) to create another emergency services district with identical boundaries to the current district if it determined that the creation of another district would enable more economical and efficient delivery of services.
- The board would adopt an order creating the district that named the district and, if considered reasonable by the board of the creating district, renamed the creating district, described the services to be provided by the

creating district and the other district, and listed the proposed date on which the creating district would cease providing services to be provided by the other district. The order could not provide for the creating district and the other district to provide the same service.

The board would have to hold an election on the next uniform election date to confirm the district's creation and authorize the imposition of a tax by the other district. The district would be created only if a majority of voters approved the creation and the tax.

The created district would be overseen by a new board, the appointment of which is specified in the bill.

The creating district could convey assets and transfer indebtedness, other than bonded indebtedness, to the other district. If the creating district had bonded indebtedness at the time that the other district was founded, the other district would have to pay to the creating district annually an amount equal to one-half of the amount required to service the bonded indebtedness in that year.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2019.