

SUBJECT:	Allowing certain counties to regulate noise in residential areas
COMMITTEE:	County Affairs — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	6 ayes — Neave Criado, Stucky, Gerdes, J. Jones, Orr, Rosenthal  3 nays — Schatzline, Slaton, Tinderholt
WITNESSES:	For — Richard Cantu, East Aldine District ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Rick Thompson, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Francis Nugent, Harris County Commissioners Court; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; Bill Kelly, Mayor's Office, City of Houston)  Against — ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Brendan Borden; Thomas Parkinson)
DIGEST:	HB 899 would authorize the commissioners court of a county with a population of more than 3.3 million to regulate, by order, the level of noise emanating from a residence located in a residential area in the unincorporated area of the county. Violation of an order would be a Class C misdemeanor (maximum fine of \$500).
SUPPORTERS SAY:	By giving certain counties the authority to regulate residential noise levels, HB 899 would improve the quality of life of citizens in certain unincorporated areas across the state. Noise levels in residential areas have been an ongoing concern in the unincorporated areas of certain counties where zoning laws do not apply, but many of these counties do not have the authority to address the issue. HB 899 would provide these local governments with the authority to resolve what has been a long term problem for many residents.
CRITICS SAY:	HB 889 would not clearly define a residential area, which could make enforcement of the bill difficult in some unincorporated areas where residential areas are not clearly zoned.