

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3540  
By: Price (Galloway)  
Intergovernmental Relations  
5-15-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

In 1949, the 51st Legislature, Regular Session, created the Port of Beaumont Navigation District of Jefferson County. Section 10, Chapter 147, of the enabling legislation provided that the port district shall, at all times, be composed of four wards so that each ward within said district shall contain as nearly as possible the same number of electors. Additionally, Section 9, Chapter 147, states, "each ward is entitled to representation on the Board of Port Commissioners by a resident of the ward."

Although there are four wards and each ward is entitled to representation on the board by a resident of that ward, all six board members are currently elected at-large. There are concerns that this undermines the principles of equal representation among wards.

Additionally, board members now are elected for a term of six years. There are concerns that this amount of time excessive.

This bill would provide for equal representation among the four wards and limit a board member's term to four years. One commissioner would be elected from each of the four wards by the qualified voters of that ward. The two remaining commissioners would be elected at-large by the qualified voters of the district.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 3540 sets forth requirements for the election of commissioners of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District of Jefferson County.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 9(a) and (d), Chapter 147, Acts of the 51st Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, to provide that commissioners of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District (district) of Jefferson County serve staggered four-year, rather than six-year, terms with the terms of three, rather than two, commissioners expiring every two years. Requires one commissioner of the Port of Beaumont Navigation District (commissioner) to be elected from each of the four wards established under Section 10 of this Act by the qualified voters of that ward. Requires two commissioners to be elected at large by the qualified voters of the district. Deletes text regarding the election of commissioners by the voters of the district-at-large.

SECTION 2. Sets forth requirements regarding an election to be held to elect all six commissioners of the district and sets forth provisions regarding terms.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.