

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 247  
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Intergovernmental Relations  
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Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the only recourse citizens can take when safety and health code ordinances are violated in their neighborhoods is to contact their city's Code Compliance Department; city officials can take a significant amount of time to respond to a complaint. H.B. 247 would set forth provisions regarding the use of neighborhood associations in the enforcement of certain municipal health and safety ordinances.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 247 sets forth provisions regarding the use of neighborhood associations in the enforcement of certain municipal health and safety ordinances.

### **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 Chapter 54B, Local Government Code, by adding Section 54.020, as follows:

Sec. 54.020. USE OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS IN ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES. Defines "neighborhood association." Authorizes a municipality to institute a program to use volunteers from a neighborhood association to help enforce certain municipal health and safety ordinances in the association's neighborhood. Authorizes the health and safety ordinances included in the program to only be those for which a violation can be observed without entering the property at which the violation occurs and may not include any health or safety ordinance that relates to the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) or to the operations of a utility. Requires a municipality to establish a training program for the volunteers. Sets forth the required instruction material. Authorizes a person trained under Subsection (c) who observes a suspected violation of an ordinance covered by the program to inform certain people or entities. Sets forth limitations of a person trained under Subsection (c). Authorizes a municipality by ordinance to provide that a notice of violation served on an owner or person residing on the property under Subsection (d) is considered to be the first warning of a violation of a municipal ordinance. Sets forth certain liberties to which a person trained under Subsection (c) is not entitled.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.