

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
83R6038 MEW-D

S.B. 543  
By: Seliger  
Intergovernmental Relations  
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As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Many Texas hospitals currently employ peace officers, but only a handful of hospital districts are included among them. In order for a hospital district to be authorized to commission and employ peace officers, it must have that authority granted to it in the Health and Safety Code.

S.B. 543 allows the Midland County Hospital District to commission and employ peace officers as a security force to protect patients, staff, and visitors at Medical Center Hospital.

As proposed, S.B. 543 amends current law relating to the authority of the Midland County Hospital District of Midland County, Texas, to employ and commission peace officers.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 1061, Special District Local Laws Code, by adding Section 1061.121, as follows:

Sec. 1061.121. EMPLOYMENT OF DISTRICT PEACE OFFICERS. (a) Authorizes the board of directors of the Midland County Hospital District of Midland County, Texas (district), to employ and commission peace officers for the district.

(b) Provides that the jurisdiction of a peace officer commissioned under this section includes the property owned or controlled by the district and any street abutting, right-of-way over or through, or easement in the property.

(c) Provides that a peace officer, in the district peace officer's jurisdiction, has the authority granted by Chapter 14 (Arrest Without Warrant), Code of Criminal Procedure. Authorizes the peace officer to also make an arrest without a warrant in the officer's jurisdiction if the offense involves injury or harm to any property owned or controlled by the district.

SECTION 2. Amends Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, to add officers commissioned by certain boards, including the board of directors of the district under Section 1061.121, Special District Local Laws Code, to the list of certain individuals who are peace officers.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2013.