

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
85R13592 SLB-F

S.B. 1987
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Intergovernmental Relations
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Special purpose districts, particularly municipal utility districts and municipal management districts, play a critical role in the development of public infrastructure and utilities to allow the growth and development of the state. Landowners initiate and support the creation of new districts by passage of special acts of the Legislature or administratively through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

S.B. 1987 originates from the hearings of the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) during the 2016 interim. Upon examination, several statutory provisions relating to the creation of new districts and the annexation of land into existing districts could be improved.

S.B. 1987 addresses IGR's findings and provides that the same notices given to landowners being included in a new district are given when a landowner's property has been included in a proposed legislative annexation into an existing district. The bill also updates the district creation and annexation petition process to better reflect landowner support.

As proposed, S.B. 1987 amends current law relating to the notice requirements for bills proposing the creation of or annexation of land to certain special purpose districts.

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 the heading to Section 313.006, Government Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 313.006. NOTICE FOR LAWS ESTABLISHING OR ADDING TERRITORY TO MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS.

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 313.006(a), (b), and (d), Government Code, as follows:

(a) Requires a person, other than a member of the legislature, who intends to apply for the passage of a law establishing or adding territory to a special district, rather than establishing a special district, that incorporates a power from Chapter 375 (Municipal Management Districts in General), Local Government Code, in addition to other requirements of this chapter (Notice for Local and Special Laws), to provide notice as provided by this section (Notice for Laws Establishing Municipal Management Districts).

(b) Requires the person to notify by mail each person who owns real property proposed to be included in a new district or to be added to an existing district, rather than each person who owns real property in the proposed district, according to the most recent certified tax appraisal roll for the county in which the real property is owned.

(d) Provides that the person is not required to mail notice to a person who owns real property in the proposed district or in the area proposed to be added to a district, rather

than in the proposed district, if the property cannot be subject to an assessment by the district.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 375.022(b), Local Government Code, to delete existing text requiring that the petition requesting creation of a district be signed by 50 persons who own real property in the proposed district if, according to the most recent certified county property tax rolls, more than 50 persons own real property in the proposed district. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 49.302(b), Water Code, to delete existing text requiring that a petition requesting the annexation of a defined area signed by 50 landowners if the number of landowners is more than 50 describe the land in a certain manner.

SECTION 5. Amends Section 54.014, Water Code, to delete existing text providing that, if there are more than 50 persons holding title to the land in the proposed district, as indicated by the tax rolls of the central appraisal district, the petition is sufficient if it is signed by 50 holders of title to the land in the district.

SECTION 6. Amends Section 54.016(a), Water Code, to delete existing text providing that, if there are more than 50 persons holding title to the land in the proposed district as indicated by the county tax rolls, the request to the city will be sufficient if it is signed by 50 holders of title to the land in the district.

SECTION 7. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2017.