SB 210 Mauzy

DIGEST: SB 210 authorized the appointment of members of the board of managers of the Dallas County Hospital District from single-member districts.

REASON FOR VETO: The Governor vetoed SB 210 because it was mechanically and procedurally deficient, since the boundaries of the districts were tied to the boundaries of legislative districts. The bill did not provide for the redefining of districts by the commissioners court. Secondly, as a matter of state policy, the Legislature should not decide the boundaries of single-member districts for local governments.

REACTION: Even though SB 210 was purely a local matter, it is within state policy and authority to draw lines for single-member districts for local units of government when the localities have failed to adequately represent the interests of all their citizens.

SB 389 Traeger

DIGEST: This bill allows a city lying in two or more counties to hold a local option liquor election with the city secretary and the city's governing body performing the functions usually performed by the county. The bill also validates these types of elections held before its effective date.

REASONS FOR VETO: The Governor approved of the section of the bill letting cities in two or more counties hold local option liquor elections. He vetoed it because it blindly validates "all prior proceedings or elections at which ballots were prepared." This may be an unjustified risk to the integrity of the local option system.

REACTION: Senator Traeger said the veto "made me sick," and that it was "absolutely uncalled for." All the bill does is to clear up a technicality in the law and give the people an option they ought to have. The current situation is an administrative nightmare; this bill would have solved the problem. This is the third time that this bill has been introduced.