
Creating the Harris County Improvement District No. 28

HB 4703 by Coleman (Whitmire)

Digest

HB 4703 would have created the Harris County Improvement District No. 28 and defined the district's purpose, boundaries, governing body, and powers and duties. The district would have been able to impose and collect assessments and issue bonds. The district could have imposed a property tax if it were approved by a majority of voters in an election.

Notes

HB 4703 passed on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.

Governor's reason for veto

"House Bill 4703 would create Harris County Improvement District No. 28 within the City of Houston. This municipal management district would be authorized to impose not only new assessments, but also to impose more ad valorem taxes on properties in its territory to fund certain infrastructure and services. These properties, however, are wholly within the service area of the city and its water utility. That means this district would be using its new ad valorem taxation to fund infrastructure and services that the city is already imposing its own taxes to provide. The City of Houston has a history of using special purpose districts to subject citizens to double taxation, and this district would be another example. The creation of such a district should not be used as a tool to circumvent property tax reforms, including the meaningful reform passed this session in Senate Bill 2."

Response

Rep. Garnet Coleman, the bill's author, said: "It is disappointing that the governor vetoed this piece of legislation. This bipartisan-supported piece of legislation would have helped develop vacant land in House District 147 into a mixed-use development with a hotel, condos, and retail and office space."

Sen. John Whitmire, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.
