

SUBJECT: Allowing Wells Branch MUD to make regional cooperation contracts

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Counts, Walker, Cook, R. Lewis, Moffat

0 nays

4 absent — Corte, Culberson, King, Puente

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 18 — 29-0

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: CSSB 1809 would authorize the Wells Branch Municipal Utility District (MUD) to contract with a municipality for a purpose intended to further regional cooperation. The contract could provide for payment to the municipality and include other terms or considerations both entities found were reasonable and appropriate.

Such a contract could specify a mutually agreeable term or duration that could be renewed or extended. During the contract term, the MUD would be exempt from annexation by the municipality. The contract would be binding on subsequent governing bodies of the district and municipality for its term.

The MUD would be authorized to make annual appropriations from its operation and maintenance tax or other available revenue to make payments to the municipality. The municipality could not annex the MUD until after December 31, 2014.

CSSB 1809 also would specify that all requirements for proper and legal public notice of intention to introduce the bill and proper state review had been carried out.

CSSB 1809 would take immediate effect if finally approved by a two-thirds record vote of the membership in each house.

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NOTES: The Senate-passed version would have amended the Local Government Code. The committee substitute provided special law provisions and prohibited annexation until after December 31, 2014.