

SUBJECT: Allowing certain hospital districts to vote for appraisal district directors

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Oliveira, McCall, Craddick, Hartnett, Heflin, Keffer, Ramsay, Ritter

0 nays

3 absent — Bonnen, Y. Davis, Hilbert

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 22 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: County appraisal districts are governed by boards of directors that include the county tax assessor-collector and other members appointed by the governing bodies of the district's participating taxing units, including conservation and reclamation districts if they are entitled to vote. Hospital districts that participate in an appraisal district are not authorized to have a representative on the appraisal district's board of directors.

DIGEST: SB 337 would entitle certain hospital districts to vote in elections of their appraisal districts' boards of directors. A hospital district would be entitled to vote only if it was located in a county with a population of less than 20,000 that was designated as a medically underserved area by the Texas Department of Health and if the total amount of property taxes imposed by the hospital district for the preceding tax year was at least 10 percent of all property taxes imposed in the appraisal district by all participating taxing units.

The chief appraiser would have to notify the presiding officer of the governing body of each hospital district that was entitled to vote about the number of votes to which each taxing unit other than a conservation and reclamation district was entitled.

SB 337
House Research Organization
page 2

The bill would take effect September 1, 2001.