

SUBJECT: Establishing approval requirements for district improvement projects

COMMITTEE: Land & Resource Management — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Burns, Rogers, C. Bell, K. Bell, Buckley, Ortega, Reynolds, Schofield, Sherman

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Frank New, Rockwall County; Dennis London (*Registered, but did not testify*: DJ Pendleton, Texas Manufactured Housing Association)

Against — Ned Muñoz, Texas Association of Builders (*Registered, but did not testify*: Phil Crone, Donnie Evans, Dallas Builders Association; Howard Cohen, Schwartz, Page & Harding L.L.P.; Lisa Clark; Michael Mahoney)

On — Todd Little, County of Ellis (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jeryl Hoover, City of Fredericksburg; Carmen Armstrong)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that providing more oversight for the issuance of bonds by conservation and reclamation districts could help to ensure that bonds were not issued without taxpayer support and projects were well-managed.

DIGEST: HB 1916 would require a conservation and reclamation district to obtain the written approval of their local county commissioners court before either issuing bonds for a district improvement project or finalizing the plans and specifications for such a project that was financed by bonds or related to:

- the use of land outside the corporate limits of a municipality;
- an easement granted by the county; or
- a right-of-way of a road or highway.

The bill would apply only to a conservation and reclamation district that

was located in a county with a population of 100,000 or more and a total area that was less than 250 square miles.

The bill would only apply to a district that issued bonds or finalized plans and specifications for an improvement project on or after the effective date of the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.