

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R8704 PAM-D

H.B. 2785
By: Dunnam (Madla)
Intergovernmental Relations
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, under Texas law, a person must be a resident of the territory covered by an election for the office or measure on which the person desires to vote in order to be eligible to vote. In addition, the law requires that in order to be eligible to be a candidate for, elected to, or appointed to, a public office in this state, a person must reside in the territory from which the office is elected for five months immediately preceding the date. With regard to an election, a change in the boundary of a territorial unit of a political subdivision is effective if the change was adopted more than five months before the election day. Thus, if a territory is annexed in December of one year a person in the annexed area may be ineligible to vote in the subsequent May city council election. This bill would amend the Election Code to allow newly annexed citizens of a territory the right to participate in the city election process by reducing the five month election residency requirement to three months.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2785 amends the Election Code to allow newly annexed citizens of a territory the right to participate in the city election process by reducing the five month election residency requirement to three months.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 276.006, Election Code, to decrease from five to three months before an election the date by which a change in the boundary of a political subdivision must be made in order to be effective with respect to the election.

SECTION 2. Effective date: January 1, 2000.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.