

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R10904 DRH-F

H.B. 3193
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Intergovernmental Relations
5/4/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

With the release of Census 2000 data, official population counts in some large urban areas have increased dramatically. This fact raises several public policy concerns. First, a large number of constituents in a city council district may make it difficult for each council member to effectively represent that member's constituents. Second, each district must retain equal populations to support the constitutional law concept of one person one vote. Lastly, without redrawing district lines to ensure that each ethnic group is equally represented, a city could violate the Voting Rights Act and face federal government intervention. H.B. 3193 authorizes certain municipalities to increase by ordinance the number of single-member governing body districts to a maximum of 14.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 26C, Local Government Code, by adding Section 26.046, as follows:

Sec. 26.046. SIZE OF GOVERNING BODY: CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES. Provides that this section applies only to certain municipalities. Authorizes the municipality, notwithstanding a charter provision to the contrary, to provide by ordinance for the number of districts used to elect members to the municipality's governing body. Prohibits the ordinance from providing for more than 14 districts. Provides that this section does not affect a mayor who, under a charter provision, is elected in a municipality at large.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.