

By: Rosenthal, Orr

H.B. No. 2730

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption and amendment of an annual budget by certain emergency services districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 775.079 to read as follows:

Sec. 775.079. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS. (a) This section applies only to a district located wholly in a county with a population of more than three million.

(b) The board shall prepare and adopt the district's annual budget in the manner provided by this section.

(c) The board, after notice, shall hold an open meeting to consider the proposed budget for the following fiscal year. Adoption of the budget may occur at the same meeting at which the board takes final action to set the tax rate if the board complies with Section 775.074(d-1).

(d) At least 72 hours before holding a meeting to adopt a proposed budget for the following fiscal year, the board shall post the proposed budget on the district's Internet website in the same location on the website that a proposed tax rate to be adopted is posted.

(e) After the board adopts the budget, the board may not amend the budget except as provided by Subsections (f) and (g).

1 (f) The board, after notice, may amend the budget after its
2 initial adoption only at an open meeting. The board shall:

3 (1) not later than 72 hours before the meeting, post
4 the proposed amendment on the district's Internet website in the
5 same location on the website that a proposed tax rate to be adopted
6 is posted; and

7 (2) include in the notice of the meeting:

8 (A) the following statement: "The Board of the
9 (name of county) Emergency Services District No. (district number)
10 will consider an amendment to the district's adopted budget. The
11 public is encouraged to review the proposed amendment to the budget
12 posted on the district's website and to attend the meeting to offer
13 comments regarding the proposed amendment. (district Internet
14 website address)"; and

15 (B) the following agenda items:

16 (i) "Public comment on the proposed
17 amendment to the budget"; and

18 (ii) "Action to adopt or reject the
19 proposed amendment to the budget".

20 (g) After allowing comments from the public regarding the
21 proposed amendment, the board may amend the budget only if three or
22 more members of the board vote in favor of adopting the proposed
23 amendment.

24 (h) The board shall give notice of a meeting held under this
25 section in the manner provided by Chapter 551, Government Code, and
26 this section.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.