By: Metcalf (Senate Sponsor - Kolkhorst)

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2023;
May 4, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Local
Government; May 15, 2023, reported favorably by the following
vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 15, 2023, sent to printer.) 1-1 1-2 1-3 1-4

COMMITTEE VOTE 1-6

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Bettencourt	X			
1-9	Springer	X			
1-10	Eckhardt			X	
1-11	Gutierrez			X	
1-12	Hall	X			
1-13	Nichols	X			
1-14	Parker	X			
1-15	Paxton	X			
1-16	West	X			

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 227; granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Chapter 7921A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 7921A. MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

NO. 227 GENERAL PROVISIONS SUBCHAPTER A.

DEFINITIONS. In this chapter: 7921A.0101.

"Board" means the district's board of directors. (1) "Commission" (2) the Texas means Commission

Environmental Quality.

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(3)"Director" means a board member.

"District" means the Montgomery County Municipal (4) Utility District No. 227.

Sec. 7921A.0102. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a municipal utility district created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

7921A.0103. Sec. CONFIRMATION AND DIRECTOR ELECTION The temporary directors shall hold an election to REQUIRED. confirm the creation of the district and to elect five permanent directors as provided by Section 49.102, Water Code.

Sec. 7921A.0104. CONSENT OF MUNICIPALITY REQUIRED. The

temporary directors may not hold an election under Section 7921A.0103 until each municipality in whose corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the district is located has consented by ordinance or resolution to the creation of the consented by ordinance or resolution to the creation of the district and to the inclusion of land in the district as required by applicable law.

7921A.0105. FINDINGS OF PUBLIC PURPOSE AND BENEFIT. Sec. The district is created to serve a public purpose and benefit. (a)

The district is created to accomplish the purposes of:
(1) a municipal utility district as provided by general law and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; and

(2) Section 52, Article III, Texas Constitution, that relate to the construction, acquisition, improvement, operation, or maintenance of macadamized, graveled, or paved roads, or improvements, including storm drainage, in aid of those roads.

Sec. 7921A.0106. INITIAL DISTRICT TERRITORY. (a) The

district is initially composed of the territory described by

Section 2 of the Act enacting this chapter.

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The boundaries and field notes contained in Section 2 of
the Act enacting this chapter form a closure. A mistake made in the
field notes or in copying the field notes in the legislative process
does not affect the district's:
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(1) organization, existence, or validity;
(2) right to issue any type of bond for the purposes for which the district is created or to pay the principal of and interest on a bond;

(3) right to impose a tax; or

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legality or operation. SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 7921A.0201. GOVERNING BODY; TERMS. (a) The district is governed by a board of five elected directors.

(b) Except as provided by Section 7921A.0202, directors

serve staggered four-year terms.
Sec. 7921A.0202. TEMPORARY DIRECTORS. (a) On or after the effective date of the Act enacting this chapter, the owner or owners of a majority of the assessed value of the real property in the district may submit a petition to the commission requesting that the commission appoint as temporary directors the five persons named in the petition. The commission shall appoint as temporary directors the five persons named in the petition.

Temporary directors serve until the earlier of:

(1) the date permanent directors are elected under Section 7921A.0103; or

(2) the fourth anniversary of the effective date of the Act enacting this chapter.

(c) If permanent directors have not been elected under Section 7921A.0103 and the terms of the temporary directors have expired, successor temporary directors shall be appointed reappointed as provided by Subsection (d) to serve terms t or that

expire on the earlier of: (1) the date permanent directors are elected under Section 7921A.0103; or

(2) the fourth anniversary of the date of the appointment or reappointment.

(d) If Subsection (c) applies, the owner or owners of a

majority of the assessed value of the real property in the may submit a petition to the commission requesting that the majority of the assessed value of the real property in the district commission appoint as successor temporary directors the five persons named in the petition. The commission shall appoint as successor temporary directors the five persons named in the petition.

SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

Sec. 7921A.0301. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The district the powers and duties necessary to accomplish the purposes for which the district is created.

Sec. 7921A.0302. MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT POWERS DUTIES. The district has the powers and duties provided by the general law of this state, including Chapters 49 and 54, Water Code, applicable to municipal utility districts created under Section 59, Water Code,

Article XVI, Texas Constitution.
Sec. 7921A.0303. AUTHORITY FOR ROAD PROJECTS. Section 52, Article III, Texas Constitution, the district may design, acquire, construct, finance, issue bonds for, improve, operate, maintain, and convey to this state, a county, or a municipality for operation and maintenance macadamized, graveled, or paved roads, or improvements, including storm drainage, in aid of those roads.

Sec. 7921A.0304. ROAD STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS. (a) A project must meet all applicable construction standards, zoning and subdivision requirements, and regulations of each municipality in whose corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction the road project is located.

(b) If a road project is not located in the corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, the road project must meet all applicable construction standards, subdivision requirements, and regulations of each county in which the road project is located.

- (c) If the state will maintain and operate the plans If the state will maintain and operate the road, the and Texas specifications of the road project.
- Sec. 7921A.0305. COMPLIANCE WITH CONSENT MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION. The district shall comply with all applicable requirements of any ordinance or resolution that is adopted under Section 54.016 or 54.0165, Water Code, and that consents to the creation of the district or to the inclusion of land in the district.
- Sec. 7921A.0306. DIVISION OF DISTRICT. (a) The board, on own motion or on receipt of a petition signed by the owner or owners of a majority of the assessed value of the real property in the district, may adopt an order dividing the district.
- (b) An order dividing a district may create one or more new districts and may provide for the continuation of the district.
 - An order dividing the district must: (c)
 - (1) name any new district;
- (2) include the metes and bounds description of the
- territory of each of the districts;
 (3) appoint temporary directors for any new district;

3**-**20 3**-**21 and (4)provide for the division of assets and liabilities

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- between the districts.

 (d) The board may adopt an order dividing the district
- the date the board holds an election to confirm the before or after district's creation.
 - The district may be divided only if the district: (e)
 - (1) has never issued any bonds; and
 - is not imposing ad valorem taxes (2)
- (f) A new district created by the division of the district may not, at the time the new district is created, contain any land outside the area described by Section 2 of the Act enacting this chapter.
- (g) On or before the 30th day after the date of adoption of an order dividing the district, the district shall file the order with the commission and record the order in the real property records of each county in which the district is located.
- division of the district, and a new district has all the powers and duties of the district.
- of the district.
 (i) A new district created by the division of the district shall hold a confirmation and directors' election.
- (j) If the creation of the new district is confirmed, new district shall provide the election date and results to the commission.
- (k) A new district created by the division of the district must hold an election as required by this chapter to obtain voter approval before the district may impose a maintenance tax or issue bonds payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes.
- The district may continue to rely on confirma, bond, or tax elections held prior to the division. confirmation, directors'
- Municipal consent to the creation of the district and to (m) the inclusion of land in the district acts as municipal consent to the creation of any new district created by the division of the district and to the inclusion of land in the new district.

 SUBCHAPTER D. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 7921A.0401. ELECTIONS REGARDING TAXES OR BONDS. district may issue, without an election, bonds and other obligations secured by:
 - 1)
- revenue other than ad valorem taxes; or contract payments described by (2) contract bу Section 7921A.0403.
- (b) The district must hold an election in the manner provided by Chapters 49 and 54, Water Code, to obtain voter approval before the district may impose an ad valorem tax or issue bonds payable from ad valorem taxes.
- 3-66 3-67 (c) The district may not issue bonds payable from ad valorem taxes to finance a road project unless the issuance is approved by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the district voters voting at an 3-68 3-69

election held for that purpose. 4-1

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Sec. 7921A.0402. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE TAX. authorized at an election held under Section 7921A.0401, district may impose an operation and maintenance tax on taxable property in the district in accordance with Section 49.107, Water

The board shall determine the tax rate. The rate may not exceed the rate approved at the election.

(a) <u>In accordance with</u> Sec. 7921A.0403. CONTRACT TAXES. Section 49.108, Water Code, the district may impose a tax other than an operation and maintenance tax and use the revenue derived from the tax to make payments under a contract after the provisions of the contract have been approved by a majority of the district voters voting at an election held for that purpose.

(b) A contract approved by the district voters may contain a provision stating that the contract may be modified or amended by the board without further voter approval.

SUBCHAPTER E. BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS

7921A.0501. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS. The district may issue bonds or other obligations payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, impact fees, revenue, contract payments, grants, or other district money, or any combination of those sources, to pay for any authorized district purpose.

Sec. 7921A.0502. TAXES FOR BONDS. At the time the district issues bonds payable wholly or partly from ad valorem taxes, the board shall provide for the annual imposition of a continuing direct ad valorem tax, without limit as to rate or amount, while all or part of the bonds are outstanding as required and in the manner provided by Sections 54.601 and 54.602, Water Code.

Sec. 7921A.0503. BONDS FOR ROAD PROJECTS. At the time of issuance, the total principal amount of bonds or other obligations

issued or incurred to finance road projects and payable from ad valorem taxes may not exceed one-fourth of the assessed value of the real property in the district.

SECTION 2. The Montgomery County Municipal Utility District

No. 227 initially includes all the territory contained in the following area:

Being 581.9 acres of land, more or less, located in the John Corner Survey, Abstract 8, Thomas Chatham Survey, Abstract 127, and the Raleigh Rogers Survey, Abstract 33, C. B. Stewart Survey, Abstract 479, and the William W. Shepperd Survey, Abstract 480, Montgomery County, Texas, out of land conveyed to Homeplace Lands, LLC, as recorded under Clerk's File No. 2012125424 of the Official Public Records of Real Property, Montgomery County, Texas, (O.P.R.M.C.), being comprised if three (3) tracts as described below; said 581.9 acres, more or less, being more particularly described as follows, with all bearings referenced to the Texas Coordinate System, Central Zone, NAD83 (NA2011) Epoch 2010.00: TRACT 1: 11.9 Acres

BEGINNING at a westerly corner of Hilltop Ranch, Section 1, a plat as recorded in Cabinet "O", Sheet 138, of the Montgomery County Map Records (M.C.M.R.), lying in an easterly right-of-way line of FM 2854 (width varies), and a northerly line of land conveyed to Homeplace Lands, LLC, as recorded under Clerk's File Homeplace Lands, LLC, as r No. 2012125424, of the O.P.R.M.C.;

THENCE EASTERLY approximately 498 feet, more or less, with and adjoining a westerly line of said Hilltop Ranch, Section 1, to the northeast corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE SOUTHERLY approximately 1,208 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said westerly line of said Hilltop Ranch, Section 1, to the southeast corner of the herein described tract, lying in the common Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) line of the City of Conroe and the City of Montgomery, Texas;

THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY approximately 201 feet, more or less, along a curve to the right, with and adjoining said common City of Conroe and City of Montgomery ETJ line, to the southwest corner of the herein described tract, lying in said easterly line of FM 2854;

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 1,333 feet, more or less, with

and adjoining said easterly right-of-way line of F.M. 2854, to the POINT OF BEGINNING, and containing approximately 11.9 acres of land. This document was prepared under 22 Texas Administrative Code §138.95, does not reflect the results of an on the ground survey, and is not to be used to convey or establish interests in real property except those rights and interests implied or established by the creation or reconfiguration of the boundary of the political subdivision for which it was prepared.

TRACT 2: 370 Acres

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Being 370 acres of land out of the John Corner Survey, Abstract 8, William W. Shepperd Survey, A-480, C. B. Stewart Survey, Abstract 479, Thomas Chatham Survey, A-127, and the Raleigh Rogers Survey, A-33, Montgomery County, Texas:

Beginning at the northwest corner of a 60 foot by 60 foot cemetery, as defined under Clerk's File No. 2011113416 of the Official Public Records Montgomery County, Texas (O.P.R.M.C.), lying in an easterly right-of-way line of FM 149, and being a westerly corner of land described under Clerks File No. 2012125424 of the O.P.R.M.C.;

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 492 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said easterly right-of-way line of F.M. 149, to the northwest corner of the herein described tract, lying in a southerly City of Montgomery, City Limit line;

THENCE EASTERLY approximately 2,028 feet, more or less, with and adjoining a said southerly City Limit line, to a southerly line of a 14.755 acre tract as defined under Clerk's File No. 2018119879 of the O.P.R.M.C., for a northerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY approximately 151 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said southerly line of the 14.755 acre tract, to a northerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE NORTHEASTERLY approximately 50 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said southerly line of the 14.755 acre tract, to a northerly corner of the herein described tract, lying in said southerly City Limit line;

THENCE EASTERLY approximately 3,448 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said southerly City Limit line, to a northerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 3,346 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said southerly City Limit line, to a northerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE EASTERLY approximately 806 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said southerly City Limit line, to the northeast corner of the herein described tract, lying in a westerly right-of-way line of FM 2854;

THENCE SOUTHERLY approximately 5,500 feet, more or less, with

THENCE SOUTHERLY approximately 5,500 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said westerly right-of-way line of FM 2854, to the southeast corner of the herein described tract, also being the northeast corner of a 22.178 acre tract as recorded under Clerk's File No. 2018119879 of the O.P.R.M.C.;

THENCE WESTERLY approximately 1,148 feet, more or less, with and adjoining the northerly line of said 22.178 acre tract, to a southerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE SOUTHERLY approximately 662 feet, more or less, with and adjoining the westerly line of said 22.178 acre tract, to a southerly corner of the herein described tract, lying in a common Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) line of the City of Conroe and the City of Montgomery, Texas;

THENCE WESTERLY approximately 2,377 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said common ETJ line, to a southerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE SOUTHERLY approximately 3,273 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said common ETJ line, to the most southerly corner of the herein described tract, lying in the north easterly right-of-way line of the BN & SF Railroad;

THENCE NORTHWESTERLY approximately 1,034 feet, more or less,

THENCE NORTHWESTERLY approximately 1,034 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said northeasterly right-of-way line of the BN & SF Railroad, to a westerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE NORTHWESTERLY approximately 71 feet, more or less to a

southerly corner of Shannon Place, a plat as recorded in Cabinet "D", Sheet 160-A, of the Montgomery County Map Records (M.C.M.R.);

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 4,046 feet, more or less, with and adjoining the easterly line of said Shannon Place, to the northeast corner of said plat, lying in a southerly line of the C. B. Stewart Survey, A-479, as shown on said plat;

B. Stewart Survey, A-479, as shown on said plat;
THENCE WESTERLY approximately 1,628 feet, more of less, with and adjoining the northerly line of said Shannon Place, to a westerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 1,120 feet, more or less, with and adjoining a northerly line of said Shannon Place and an easterly line of a 10.59 acre tract as recorded under Clerk's File No. 2011113416 of the O.P.R.M.C., to a westerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE WESTERLY approximately 438 feet, more or less, with and adjoining the northerly line of said 10.59 acre tract and said cemetery tract, to the POINT OF BEGINNING, and containing approximately 370 acres of land. This document was prepared under 22 Texas Administrative Code §138.95, does not reflect the results of an on the ground survey, and is not to be used to convey or establish interests in real property except those rights and interests implied or established by the creation or reconfiguration of the boundary of the political subdivision for which it was prepared.

TRACT 3: 180 Acres

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Being 180 acres of land out of the Raleigh Rogers Survey, A-33, Montgomery County, Texas:

BEGINNING at a southwest corner of a 23.362 acre tract, as described in a deed recorded under Clerk's File No. 2006-104958 of the Official Public Records of Real Property Montgomery County, Texas (O.P.R.R.P.M.C.)., lying in the easterly right-of-way line of F.M. 149, and being a westerly corner of land described under Clerks File No. 2012125424 of the Official Public Records Montgomery County, Texas (O.P.R.M.C.);

THENCE EASTERLY approximately 1,669 feet, more or less, with and adjoining a southerly line of said 23.362 acre tract, also being a southerly line of the Montgomery 149, LLC tract as recorded under Clerk's File No. 2018058916 of the O.P.R.M.C., to a westerly interior corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 2,151 feet, more or less, with and adjoining the easterly line of said Montgomery 149, LLC tract to an easterly interior corner of said Montgomery 149, LLC tract, also being a northerly corner of the herein described tract;

THENCE EASTERLY approximately 302 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said Montgomery 149, LLC tract, to the northeast corner of the herein described tract, lying in a southwesterly right-of-way line of the BN & SF Railroad;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY approximately 918 feet, more or less, with and adjoining a southwesterly right-of-way line of the BN & SF Railroad, to an easterly corner of the herein described tract, lying in the common Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) line of the City of Conroe and the City of Montgomery, Texas;

THENCE SOUTHERLY approximately 3,811 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said common ETJ line, to the southeast corner of the herein described tract, lying in a northerly line of land as described in a warranty deed to Earle T. McCants and Edward W. McCants as recorded under Clerk's File No. 99002183 of the O.P.R.R.P.M.C.;

THENCE WESTERLY approximately 2,561 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said northerly line of Earle T. McCants and Edward W. McCants tract, to the southwest corner of the herein described tract, lying in said easterly right-of-way line of FM 149;

THENCE NORTHERLY approximately 2,391 feet, more or less, with and adjoining said easterly right-of-way line of FM 149, to the POINT OF BEGINNING, and containing approximately 180 acres. This document was prepared under 22 Texas Administrative Code §138.95, does not reflect the results of an on the ground survey, and is not to be used to convey or establish interests in real property except those rights and interests implied or established by the creation

or reconfiguration of the boundary of the political subdivision for which it was prepared.

SECTION 3. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

- (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.
- (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled and accomplished.

SECTION 4. (a) If this Act does not receive a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to each house, Subchapter C, Chapter 7921A, Special District Local Laws Code, as added by Section 1 of this Act, is amended by adding Section 7921A.0307 to read as follows:

Sec. 7921A.0307. NO EMINENT DOMAIN POWER. The district may not exercise the power of eminent domain.

(b) This section is not intended to be an expression of a legislative interpretation of the requirements of Section 17(c), Article I, Texas Constitution.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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