

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 948
By: Lindsay
Local Government Ways and Means
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law requires that the governing body of a taxing unit must approve tax exemptions with the owner of real or personal property. The boards of managers of hospital districts believe this charge detracts from their primary focus of providing indigent health care and overseeing the operations of a district's health care facilities. The commissioner's court of a county is responsible for approving all tax exemptions affecting its tax base. As proposed, S.B. 948 gives a commissioners court the ability to adopt or to remove an exemption with respect to the imposition or collection of an ad valorem tax imposed for the benefit of a hospital district.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1.

Amends Chapter 281E, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 281.096, as follows:

Sec. 281.096. AUTHORITY TO TAKE ACTIONS RELATING TO AD VALOREM TAXES.

- (a) Provides that, with respect to the imposition or collection of an ad valorem tax imposed for the benefit of a hospital district, the commissioners court of the county in which the district is located has the authority assigned by law to the governing body of the hospital district, including the authority to perform certain tasks.
- (b) Prohibits the board of a hospital district from exercising a power granted by Subsection (a) to the commissioners court with respect to the imposition or collection of an ad valorem tax imposed for the benefit of the hospital district.

SECTION 2.

- (a) Effective date: September 1, 2003.
- (b) Makes application of Section 281.096, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, prospective to January 1, 2004.
- (c) Provides that Section 281.096, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, does not affect a contract entered into under Section 6.30(c), Tax Code, before the effective date of this Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.

