

By: Flores

H.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the exclusion of urban property from irrigation
3 districts and subsequent water use.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 1(1), Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
6 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas
7 Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) "Urban property" means land that has been
9 subdivided into town lots, or town lots and blocks, or small parcels
10 of the same general nature of town lots, or town blocks and lots,
11 designed, intended, or suitable for residential or other
12 nonagricultural purposes, as distinguished from farm acreage,
13 including streets, alleys, parkways, parks, and railroad property
14 and rights-of-way within that subdivided land and that is in a
15 subdivision:

16 (A) that is within the corporate limits or
17 extraterritorial jurisdiction of a city that has subdivision
18 approval jurisdiction under Chapter 42, 43, or 212, Local
19 Government Code;

20 (B) [~~the Municipal Annexation Act (Article 970a,~~
21 ~~Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), or Chapter 231, Acts of the 40th~~
22 ~~Legislature, Regular Session, 1927 (Article 974a, Vernon's Texas~~
23 ~~Civil Statutes), and] for which a plat or map of the subdivision
24 has been filed and recorded in the office of the county clerk of the~~

1 county in which the subdivision or any part of the subdivision is
2 located; and

3 (C) that is under a certificate of public
4 convenience and necessity issued by the applicable state agency or
5 within the service area of another municipal supplier.

6 SECTION 2. Section 2, Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
7 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas
8 Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 2. EXCLUSION OF URBAN PROPERTY. Urban property
10 located within the boundaries of a district may be excluded from the
11 district by the board of directors in the manner and on the
12 conditions provided by this Act. Urban property may be excluded
13 only after the following have been paid to the district:

14 (1) all taxes, assessments, and other lawful charges
15 of the district accrued on the property to be excluded, together
16 with all lawful interest and penalties accrued on those taxes,
17 assessments, and charges; and

18 (2) the proportionate part of the outstanding bonded
19 indebtedness or indebtedness in connection with a loan from an
20 authorized agency of the United States for which the property
21 proposed to be excluded is liable, as determined under this Act[
22 ~~and~~

23 ~~[(3) agreement on a reasonable determined amount to be~~
24 ~~paid by the city or other supplier of potable water to compensate~~
25 ~~the district for loss of revenue occasioned by the said exclusion].~~

26 SECTION 3. Section 3, Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
27 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas

1 Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending
2 Subsections (b) and (d) to read as follows:

3 (a-1) The owners, or the owners at the time of subdivision
4 of the property, may designate the city or other municipal supplier
5 -serving the property with potable water as the agent to sign and
6 file the application.

7 (b) The application must:

8 (1) include a sworn acknowledgment describing [~~by the~~
9 ~~owner or owners of the property;~~

10 [~~(2) describe~~] the property to be excluded by
11 identifying the lot or block number of the subdivision and the name
12 or designation of the subdivision as shown on the recorded plat of
13 the subdivision, or by some other method of identification; and

14 (2) [~~(3)~~] state that the property is used or intended
15 to be used for the purposes for which it was subdivided, and that
16 the property is not used or intended to be used, in whole or in part,
17 for agricultural purposes.

18 (d) The applicant shall also furnish to the district
19 evidence [~~satisfactory to, or required by, the board of directors~~]
20 of the applicant's ownership of or the agent's authority for the
21 property proposed to be excluded[, ~~and of the right of the applicant~~
22 ~~to have the property excluded~~] from the district.

23 SECTION 4. Section 4, Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
24 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas
25 Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 4. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION. (a) As soon as
27 practicable after the filing of the application, the board of

1 directors of the district shall consider the application [~~and~~
2 ~~inquire into all the facts relating to the application considered~~
3 ~~by the board to be necessary to a determination of whether a public~~
4 ~~hearing on the application should be held~~].

5 (b) If [~~After consideration and investigation, if~~] the
6 board finds that all taxes, assessments, and charges of the
7 district on the property, and interest and penalties on those
8 amounts, due to the district up to the date of the filing of the
9 application, have been paid, that the property described in the
10 application is owned by the applicant or that an authorized agent
11 has been appointed, that the property is urban property and is not
12 used or intended to be used for agricultural purposes but will
13 require a source of treated potable water from the city or other
14 municipal provider in the service area of which the subdivision is
15 located, and that the exclusion of the property will not cut off the
16 district or its facilities from ready and convenient access to
17 other land remaining in the district for irrigation or other
18 district purposes, the board shall pass an order approving [~~further~~
19 ~~consideration of~~] the application. If the board adopts [~~is unable~~
20 ~~to make any one of these findings, it shall adopt~~] a resolution
21 rejecting the application, [~~and~~] the resolution of the board
22 rejecting the application is appealable under Section 49.308, Water
23 Code [~~final and not subject to review by any other body, tribunal,~~
24 ~~or authority~~].

25 (c) If the board approves [~~further consideration of~~] the
26 application, it shall proceed to determine the proportionate amount
27 of the bonded or contractual indebtedness for which the property to

1 be excluded is liable as provided by Subsection (d) of this section.

2 (d) If the district has outstanding bonded indebtedness,
3 the board shall obtain from the chief appraiser a certified copy of
4 the appraised value of all the property to be excluded for the five
5 years immediately preceding the year in which the application is
6 filed, as shown by the tax rolls of the district, and the appraised
7 value of all taxable property in the district according to the most
8 recent tax rolls of the district. The part of the total outstanding
9 bonded indebtedness of the district to be paid by the applicant as a
10 condition precedent to the exclusion of the property is that
11 proportion of the indebtedness, including unpaid interest computed
12 to the date of the order, that the appraised value of the property
13 to be excluded bears to the appraised value of all taxable property
14 in the district according to the most recent tax rolls. If the
15 district has contractual or other indebtedness being repaid on the
16 benefit tax basis, the board shall obtain from the appropriate
17 records the manner in which the tax is assessed, and from those
18 records the district shall calculate the part of the total
19 outstanding indebtedness of the district remaining to be paid
20 attributable to the property to be excluded. The final order of the
21 board approving exclusion [~~further consideration of the~~
22 ~~application~~] also shall state the amounts required to be paid under
23 [~~by~~] Section 2 of this Act as a condition of the exclusion of the
24 property.

25 SECTION 5. Section 5, Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
26 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas
27 Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 5. FINAL ORDER OF THE BOARD [~~FURTHER PROCEEDINGS ON~~
2 ~~APPLICATION~~]. (a) The final order of the board excluding the
3 property does not take effect [~~approving further consideration of~~
4 ~~the application has no force or effect, and no further proceeding~~
5 ~~may be held on the application~~] unless the applicant, on or before
6 the 20th day [~~within 20 days~~] after the date of adoption of the
7 final order [~~or within a period of up to 30 days after adoption of~~
8 ~~the order as ordered by the board~~], deposits with the district the
9 amounts due under Section 2 of this Act.

10 (b) The district shall record in the deed records in the
11 county in which the excluded property is located a copy of the order
12 excluding urban property from the district, certified by the
13 secretary of the board of directors, as evidence of the exclusion.

14 (c) On the passage of the order, the property excluded does
15 not constitute a part of the district, and the owner of the
16 property:

17 (1) has no further liability to the district;

18 (2) has no further liability for any bonded or other
19 indebtedness of the district; and

20 (3) is not subject to further taxation by the
21 district.

22 (d) For the purpose of servicing land remaining in the
23 district, the district retains full rights to maintain and operate
24 any canals, ditches, pipelines, pumps, or other facilities of the
25 district located on land excluded by the order.

26 SECTION 6. Section 8, Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
27 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas

1 Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

2 Sec. 8. WATER RIGHTS. If [After] the district, under this
3 Act or any other law, excludes urban land from its boundaries [~~that~~
4 ~~lies within the corporate boundaries or extraterritorial~~
5 ~~jurisdiction of any city]~~, the city or other municipal supplier who
6 proposes to serve the land with a potable water supply may petition
7 the district to convert the proportionate water rights previously
8 allocated for the land from irrigation use rights to municipal use
9 rights for the use and benefit of the city or other municipal
10 supplier. The district shall compute the proportionate water
11 rights available and shall proceed with appropriate administrative
12 proceedings to convert the irrigation use rights to municipal use
13 rights. However, the city or other municipal supplier shall
14 deposit with the district the amount that the district estimates
15 will be its reasonable expenses and attorney's fees incurred in
16 those administrative proceedings before the district is obligated
17 to initiate the administrative proceedings. On approval of the
18 conversion by the Texas [~~Water~~] Commission on Environmental
19 Quality, the water shall be delivered to the city or other municipal
20 supplier by the district in the manner those entities may agree to
21 under the Water Code or under an existing contract between the
22 district and the city or other municipal supplier.

23 SECTION 7. Sections 6 and 7, Chapter 707, Acts of the 69th
24 Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's Texas
25 Civil Statutes), are repealed.

26 SECTION 8. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

27 (b) The changes in law made by this Act apply to an

1 administrative proceeding under Section 8, Chapter 707, Acts of the
2 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 973c, Vernon's
3 Texas Civil Statutes), as amended by this Act, that is initiated on
4 or after the effective date of this Act. An administrative
5 proceeding under that section that is in progress on the effective
6 date of this Act is governed by the law applicable to that
7 proceeding in effect immediately before the effective date, and
8 that law is continued in effect for that purpose.