

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 14, 2003**

**TO:** Honorable Anna Mowery, Chair, House Committee on Land & Resource Management

**FROM:** John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB662** by Van Arsdale (Relating to the right of a resident of an area included in a municipal annexation plan to vote in a municipal election.), **As Introduced**

**No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would require a municipality to allow residents located in areas included in a municipal annexation plan to vote in municipal elections other than a bond election. The municipality would be required to provide written notice to let the affected residents know that they are eligible to vote in the election. If an area is removed from the annexation plan, the municipality must notify the residents in writing that they are no longer included in the plan and no longer eligible to vote in municipal elections. Other provisions would result in including other territorial units in an annexation plan and qualify the residents of that unit to vote in municipal elections. The municipality would be required to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation notifying residents of who is eligible to vote and the location of the polling places. The bill would take effect September 1, 2003 and would apply to municipal elections held after the effective date regardless of the date the annexation plan was created.

**Local Government Impact**

Affected municipalities would incur costs of providing written notice to residents; publishing a quarter-page newspaper notice; providing equipment, supplies, and election officials for additional polling places; and issuing new voter registration certificates. According to the Texas Association of Election Administrators and several municipalities contacted, the costs would not be significant, although the impact would vary by municipality, depending on the population of the municipality and the number of polling places required in the additional area where voting is held. Additionally, the city manager in Huntsville noted that if adding residents in the planned annexed areas were to affect the municipality's compliance with the Voting Rights Act, the costs could increase for actions needed to regain compliance.

**Source Agencies:** 307 Secretary Of State

**LBB Staff:** JK, CL, DLBa, JB