

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to conflicts of interest of policy board members of metropolitan planning organizations; providing a criminal penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 472, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 472.031. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Metropolitan planning organization" means a metropolitan planning organization designated or redesignated under 23 U.S.C. Section 134.

(2) "Policy board" means the policy board of a metropolitan planning organization.

Sec. 472.032. VOTING PROXIES BY POLICY BOARD MEMBERS. (a) A policy board [~~of a metropolitan planning organization designated or redesignated under 23 U.S.C. Section 134~~] may provide in its bylaws for appointment of voting proxies by its members.

(b) A proxy appointed under Subsection (a):

(1) acts on behalf of and under the supervision of the policy board member who appointed the proxy;

(2) must be appointed in writing; and

(3) is authorized to vote for the policy board member who appointed the proxy to the extent the member has given the proxy the member's voting power.

1       Sec. 472.033. APPLICABILITY OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST LAW TO  
2 POLICY BOARD MEMBERS. (a) A policy board member is considered to  
3 be a local public official for purposes of Chapter 171, Local  
4 Government Code.

5       (b) If a policy board member must abstain from participation  
6 in a vote or decision under Section 171.004, Local Government Code,  
7 the member's proxy appointed under Section 472.032 may not  
8 participate in the vote or decision.

9       (c) The appointment of a proxy by a policy board member does  
10 not excuse the member from filing an affidavit required under  
11 Section 171.004, Local Government Code.

12       SECTION 2. Section 472.033, Transportation Code, as added  
13 by this Act, applies only to an action taken by a member of the  
14 policy board of a metropolitan planning organization, acting in  
15 person or by proxy, on or after September 1, 2005. An action taken  
16 by a member of the policy board of a metropolitan planning  
17 organization, acting in person or by proxy, before September 1,  
18 2005, is subject to the law in effect on the date the action was  
19 taken, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

20       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.