

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 2353
By: Thompson
Urban Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Texans who rent from private landlords may not be discriminated against on the basis of the color of their skin, race, religion, or other protected classes. However, the Texas Fair Housing Act currently does not apply to housing offered by a governmental entity.

This means that if a public housing authority otherwise illegally discriminates against a tenant, for instance, by refusing to rent to a person because of race, the prospective resident cannot seek relief using the Texas Fair Housing Act.

House Bill No. 2353 would make the Texas Fair Housing Act apply to governmental entities in the same manner as private entities.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends section 392.006 of the Local Government Code, by adding Property Code Chapter 301 (the "Texas Fair Housing Act") to the list of laws with which public housing authorities are required to comply.

SECTION 2. States that this law takes effect on September 1, 2007.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2007.