

By: Vaught

H.B. No. 3800

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the expansion of the boundaries of the Dallas County and  
3 Tarrant County Hospital Districts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety  
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.058 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 281.058. EXPANSION OF DALLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
8 TERRITORY. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, registered voters  
9 of a defined territory composed of one or more counties contiguous  
10 to Dallas County, Texas, that is not included in the boundaries of  
11 the district may file a petition with the Commissioners Court of  
12 Dallas County requesting inclusion in the district. The petition  
13 must be signed by at least 50 registered voters of the defined  
14 territory or a majority of those voters, whichever is less.

15 (b) Regardless of whether a petition is filed under  
16 Subsection (a), the Commissioners Court of Dallas County may pursue  
17 the issue of annexing territory to the district.

18 (c) The Commissioners Court of Dallas County shall set a  
19 time and place to hold a hearing on the issue of annexing territory  
20 to the district. The commissioners court shall set a date for the  
21 hearing that is not earlier than the 31st day after the date the  
22 court issues the order.

23 (d) If after the hearing the Commissioners Court of Dallas  
24 County finds that annexation of territory into the district would

1 be feasible and would benefit the district, the commissioners court  
2 may approve the annexation by a resolution entered in its minutes.  
3 If the commissioners court is acting in response to a petition, the  
4 commissioners court is not required to include all of the territory  
5 described in the petition if a modification or change is found to be  
6 necessary or desirable. The Commissioners Court of Dallas County  
7 shall send a copy of the resolution to the commissioners court of  
8 each county in which the territory to be annexed is included.

9 (e) Annexation of territory is final when approved by a  
10 majority of the voters at an election held in the district and by a  
11 majority of the voters at a separate election held in the territory  
12 to be annexed. If the district has outstanding debts or taxes, the  
13 voters in the election to approve the annexation must also  
14 determine if the annexed territory will assume its proportion of  
15 the debts or taxes if added to the district. A commissioners court  
16 that receives a copy of a resolution under Subsection (d) shall  
17 cooperate with the Commissioners Court of Dallas County in holding  
18 the elections required by this subsection.

19 (f) The election ballots shall be printed to provide for  
20 voting for or against the following, as applicable:

21 (1) "Adding (description of territory to be added) to  
22 the Dallas County Hospital District."; or

23 (2) "(Description of territory to be added) assuming  
24 its proportionate share of the outstanding debts and taxes of the  
25 Dallas County Hospital District, if it is added to the district."

26 (g) If territory to be included in the district under this  
27 section is included in the boundaries of another hospital district,

1 the election to approve adding the territory to the district under  
2 this section is to be treated for all purposes as an election to  
3 dissolve the other hospital district in accordance with Article IX,  
4 Section 9, Texas Constitution, and Sections 286.102 through  
5 286.106.

6 (h) The ballot language at an election to which Subsection  
7 (g) applies must clearly state that the final approval of the  
8 annexation of the territory will result in the dissolution of the  
9 other hospital district.

10 (i) Once annexation is approved, the Commissioners Court of  
11 Dallas County shall appoint an advisory committee with  
12 representatives from each county included in the annexed territory  
13 to represent the interests of the county.

14 (j) This section does not affect the authority given to the  
15 Commissioners Court of Dallas County under this chapter.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 281, Health and Safety  
17 Code, is amended by adding Section 281.059 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 281.059. EXPANSION OF TARRANT COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
19 TERRITORY. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, registered voters  
20 of a defined territory composed of one or more counties contiguous  
21 to Tarrant County, Texas, that is not included in the boundaries of  
22 the district may file a petition with the Commissioners Court of  
23 Tarrant County requesting inclusion in the district. The petition  
24 must be signed by at least 50 registered voters of the defined  
25 territory or a majority of those voters, whichever is less.

26 (b) Regardless of whether a petition is filed under  
27 Subsection (a), the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County may

1 pursue the issue of annexing territory to the district.

2 (c) The Commissioners Court of Tarrant County shall set a  
3 time and place to hold a hearing on the issue of annexing territory  
4 to the district. The commissioners court shall set a date for the  
5 hearing that is not earlier than the 31st day after the date the  
6 court issues the order.

7 (d) If after the hearing the Commissioners Court of Tarrant  
8 County finds that annexation of territory into the district would  
9 be feasible and would benefit the district, the commissioners court  
10 may approve the annexation by a resolution entered in its minutes.  
11 If the commissioners court is acting in response to a petition, the  
12 commissioners court is not required to include all of the territory  
13 described in the petition if a modification or change is found to be  
14 necessary or desirable. The Commissioners Court of Tarrant County  
15 shall send a copy of the resolution to the commissioners court of  
16 each county in which the territory to be annexed is included.

17 (e) Annexation of territory is final when approved by a  
18 majority of the voters at an election held in the district and by a  
19 majority of the voters at a separate election held in the territory  
20 to be annexed. If the district has outstanding debts or taxes, the  
21 voters in the election to approve the annexation must also  
22 determine if the annexed territory will assume its proportion of  
23 the debts or taxes if added to the district. A commissioners court  
24 that receives a copy of a resolution under Subsection (d) shall  
25 cooperate with the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County in holding  
26 the elections required by this subsection.

27 (f) The election ballots shall be printed to provide for

1 voting for or against the following, as applicable:

2 (1) "Adding (description of territory to be added) to  
3 the Tarrant County Hospital District."; or

4 (2) "(Description of territory to be added) assuming  
5 its proportionate share of the outstanding debts and taxes of the  
6 Tarrant County Hospital District, if it is added to the district."

7 (g) If territory to be included in the district under this  
8 section is included in the boundaries of another hospital district,  
9 the election to approve adding the territory to the district under  
10 this section is to be treated for all purposes as an election to  
11 dissolve the other hospital district in accordance with Article IX,  
12 Section 9, Texas Constitution, and Sections 286.102 through  
13 286.106.

14 (h) The ballot language at an election to which Subsection  
15 (g) applies must clearly state that the final approval of the  
16 annexation of the territory will result in the dissolution of the  
17 other hospital district.

18 (i) Once annexation is approved, the Commissioners Court of  
19 Tarrant County shall appoint an advisory committee with  
20 representatives from each county included in the annexed territory  
21 to represent the interests of the county.

22 (j) This section does not affect the authority given to the  
23 Commissioners Court of Tarrant County under this chapter.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the date on which the  
25 constitutional amendment proposed by the 80th Legislature, Regular  
26 Session, 2007, to allow the Dallas County Hospital District and  
27 Tarrant County Hospital District to expand their boundaries takes

1 effect. If that amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act  
2 has no effect.