

By: Estes S.B. No. 1165
(In the Senate - Filed March 5, 2007; March 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental Relations; April 11, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 3, Nays 0; April 11, 2007, sent to printer.)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Gainesville Hospital District.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4, Chapter 211, Acts of the 64th Legislature, Regular Session, 1975, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4. (a) The district is governed by a board of nine directors.

(b) Directors serve staggered three-year terms ~~[Upon the effective date of this Act, the following named nine persons shall be and constitute the temporary or provisional directors of the said district:]~~

~~1--Lambert Bezner~~

~~6--Dr. Harry M. Roark~~

~~2--Dr. James R. Cole~~

~~7--J. Robert Evans~~

~~3--L. V. Henry~~

~~8--W. W. Weems~~

~~4--E. J. (Junior) Hudspeth~~

~~9--E. E. Wright~~

~~5--Joe B. Hundt~~

~~and each of said directors shall subscribe to the constitutional oath of office within 60 days of the effective date of this Act. Should any of the named directors refuse to act or for any reason fail to qualify as herein required, the County Judge of Cooke County shall fill such vacancy. The terms of office of the first, third, fifth, seventh, and ninth named directors shall expire on the first Saturday in April of the year following the election for the creation of the district, and the terms of the second, fourth, sixth, and eighth named directors shall expire on the first Saturday in April of the second year following the election for the creation of the district].~~

(c) A regular election for directors shall be held on the uniform election date in May ~~[first Saturday in April]~~ of each year to elect the appropriate number of directors. ~~[The regular election for directors shall be ordered by the board, and such order shall state the time, place, and purpose of the election, and the board shall appoint the presiding judge who shall appoint an assistant judge and such clerks as may be required, and such election shall be ordered at least 30 days prior to the date on which it is to be held.]~~ Any person desiring the person's ~~[his]~~ name to be printed on the ballot as a candidate for director shall file an application ~~[a petition, signed by not less than 15 qualified voters asking that such name be printed on the ballot,]~~ with the secretary of the board of directors of the district in accordance with Chapter 144, Election Code. ~~[Such petition shall be filed with such secretary at least 25 days prior to the date of election.]~~ Notice of such election shall be published ~~[one time]~~ in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the district in accordance with Section 4.003, Election Code ~~[at least 20 days before the election].~~

(d) All vacancies in office ~~[(other than for the failure of an original director herein appointed to qualify)]~~ shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors, and such appointees shall hold office for the unexpired terms for which they were appointed.

(e) A director who fails to attend at least four regular meetings in any 12-month period is considered to have resigned the director's position, effective immediately on the date of the fourth absence. Further action is not required by the director or the board to effectuate a vacancy under this subsection. A vacancy created by a resignation under this subsection shall be filled as

provided by Subsection (d) of this section.

(f) No director shall be entitled to compensation but shall be entitled to receive his actual expenses incurred in attending to the district's business, provided such expenses are approved by the remainder of the board.

(g) To be qualified to hold office as a director of the district, a person must be a resident of the district and a registered voter ~~[and own property therein subject to hospital-district taxation]~~.

(h) The board of directors shall elect from its number a president, vice-president, secretary, and such other officers as in the judgement of the board are necessary~~[- The president shall be the chief executive officer of the district and shall have the same right to vote as any other director. The vice-president shall perform all duties and exercise all powers conferred by this Act upon the president when the president is absent or fails or declines to act.~~

~~[The directors named herein and their successors in office shall hold office as provisional or temporary directors until such time as the creation of the district has been approved at an election as herein provided. At such time as the creation of the district is so approved and the returns of the election officially canvassed, the persons acting as provisional or temporary directors shall become permanent directors whose terms shall expire as hereinabove provided].~~

(i) Each ~~[permanent]~~ director and his successor in office shall qualify by executing the constitutional oath of office.

(j) A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 2. Section 5, Chapter 211, Acts of the 64th Legislature, Regular Session, 1975, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. (a) The board of directors shall manage, control, and administer the hospital system and the funds and resources ~~[hospital facilities to provide medical and hospital care for needy residents]~~ of the district. The district through its board of directors shall have the power and authority to sue and be sued and to promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of the district.

(b) The board of directors shall appoint a qualified person to be known as the administrator ~~[or manager]~~ of the hospital district and may in its discretion appoint an assistant to the administrator ~~[or manager]~~. Such administrator ~~[or manager]~~ and assistant administrator ~~[or assistant manager]~~, if any, shall serve at the will of the board and shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the board. The administrator ~~[or manager]~~ shall, upon assuming his duties, execute a bond payable to the hospital district in an amount to be set by the board of directors, in no event less than \$5,000, conditioned that he shall perform the duties required of him, and containing such other conditions as the board may require. The board may pay for the bond with district funds. The administrator ~~[or manager]~~ shall supervise all the work and activities of the hospital district and shall have general direction of the affairs of the district, subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by the board.

(c) The board of directors~~[- with the administrator,]~~ shall have the authority to appoint to or dismiss from the medical staff ~~[admit]~~ such physicians, dentists, and podiatrists as the board determines are ~~[doctors or employ technicians, nurses, and other employees of every kind and character as may be deemed]~~ necessary for the efficient operation of the hospital district ~~[or may provide that the administrator or manager shall have the authority to admit or employ such persons]~~.

(d) The district may employ technicians, nurses, fiscal agents, accountants, architects, additional attorneys, and other necessary employees. The board may delegate to the administrator the authority to employ persons for the district.

(e) Such board shall be authorized to contract with any county or incorporated municipality located outside the district for the care and treatment of the sick, diseased, or injured persons

3-1 of any such county or municipality and shall have the authority to
3-2 contract with the State of Texas and agencies of the federal
3-3 government for treatment of sick, diseased, or injured persons for
3-4 whom the State of Texas or the federal government is responsible.
3-5 The board of directors is also authorized to enter into such
3-6 contracts or agreements with the State of Texas or the federal
3-7 government as may be required to establish or continue a retirement
3-8 program for the benefit of the district's employees.

3-9 (f) The board may also enter into a contract or contracts
3-10 with nonprofit corporations whereby such corporations agree to
3-11 provide administrative and other personnel for the operation of the
3-12 hospital facilities, but in no event may such contract be for a
3-13 period in excess of 25 years from the date the same is executed.

3-14 (g) The board of directors of such district shall have the
3-15 power to prescribe the method and manner of making purchases and
3-16 expenditures by and for such hospital district and also shall be
3-17 authorized to prescribe all accounting and control procedures and
3-18 to make such rules and regulations as may be required to carry out
3-19 the provisions of this Act. The board is given exclusive authority
3-20 to determine the type, character, and use of the facilities forming
3-21 a part of the hospital system.

3-22 SECTION 3. (a) The election of directors scheduled before
3-23 the effective date of this Act to be held in May, 2008, shall be
3-24 held, and the three directors who receive the highest number of
3-25 votes shall each be elected to serve three-year terms. The two
3-26 remaining directors elected shall be elected to serve two-year
3-27 terms. Successor directors shall serve three-year terms.

3-28 (b) Four directors shall be elected in 2009. The director
3-29 who receives the highest number of votes shall be elected to serve a
3-30 four-year term. The three remaining directors elected shall be
3-31 elected to serve three-year terms. Successor directors shall serve
3-32 three-year terms.

3-33 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3-34 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3-35 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3-36 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3-37 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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