

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1917  
By: Fletcher  
Natural Resources  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, the land located within the boundaries of the proposed municipal utility district is undeveloped and lies within extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston and Harris County.

H.B. 1917 creates the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478 and provides the district all the powers granted to municipal utility districts operating pursuant to the Water Code and road powers pursuant to the Texas Constitution.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1917 amends the Special District Local Laws Code to set forth standard language for the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 478. The bill sets forth general provisions for the nature of the district, the confirmation of the district and election of the board of directors, municipal consent, the district's public purpose and benefit, and initial district territory; the number of members and terms of the board of directors of the district, including provisions for temporary directors; the powers and duties of the district, including the power to undertake certain road projects and the approval necessary for such projects, required compliance with municipal ordinance and resolutions, and the limited use of eminent domain.

H.B. 1917 sets forth general financial provisions authorizing a district, subject to the approval of district voters with limited exception, to issue bonds and other obligations, impose a property tax for operations and maintenance, and impose contract taxes. The bill requires the board, on bonds payable wholly or partly from property taxes, to provide for the annual imposition of a continuing direct property tax, without limit as to rate or amount, while all or part of the bonds are outstanding as required. The bill requires the total principal amount of bonds or other obligations issued or incurred to finance road projects and payable from property taxes to not exceed one-fourth of the assessed value of the real property in the district at the time of issuance. The bill sets forth in detail the initial boundaries of the district. The bill defines the terms "board," "director," and "district."

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the act does not receive the necessary vote, the act takes effect September 1, 2009.