

By: Vaught

H.B. No. 515

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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 Dallas County Hospital District may file a petition with the
12 Commissioners Court of Dallas County requesting inclusion in the
13 district. The petition must be signed by at least 50 registered
14 voters of the defined territory or a majority of those voters,
15 whichever is less.

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

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

24 (d) If after the hearing the Commissioners Court of Dallas

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

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

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

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

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

27 (g) If territory to be included in the district under this

1 section is included in the boundaries of another hospital district,
2 the election to approve adding the territory to the district under
3 this section is to be treated for all purposes as an election to
4 dissolve the other hospital district in accordance with Section 9,
5 Article IX, Texas Constitution, and Sections 286.102 through
6 286.106.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) Regardless of whether a petition is filed under
2 Subsection (a), the Commissioners Court of Tarrant County may
3 pursue the issue of annexing territory to the district.

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

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

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

1 the elections required by this subsection.

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

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

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

9 (g) If territory to be included in the district under this
10 section is included in the boundaries of another hospital district,
11 the election to approve adding the territory to the district under
12 this section is to be treated for all purposes as an election to
13 dissolve the other hospital district in accordance with Section 9,
14 Article IX, Texas Constitution, and Sections 286.102 through
15 286.106.

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

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

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

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the date on which the
27 constitutional amendment proposed by the 81st Legislature, Regular

1 Session, 2009, to allow the Dallas County Hospital District and
2 Tarrant County Hospital District to expand their boundaries takes
3 effect. If that amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act
4 has no effect.