SENATE AMENDMENTS

2nd Printing

By: Elkins H.B. No. 621

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

| 1 | AN ACT |
|----|--|
| 2 | relating to public improvement districts designated by a county or |
| 3 | municipality. |
| 4 | BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: |
| 5 | SECTION 1. Section 372.017(b), Local Government Code, is |
| 6 | amended to read as follows: |
| 7 | (b) After all objections have been heard and the governing |
| 8 | body has passed on the objections, the governing body by ordinance |
| 9 | or order shall levy the assessment as a special assessment on the |
| 10 | property. The governing body by ordinance or order shall specify |
| 11 | the method of payment of the assessment. The governing body may |
| 12 | provide that assessments be paid in periodic installments, at an |
| 13 | interest rate and for a period approved by the governing body. The |
| 14 | provision that assessments be paid in periodic installments may, |
| 15 | but is not required to, result in level annual installment |
| 16 | payments. The installments must be in amounts necessary to meet |
| 17 | annual costs for improvements and must continue for $\underline{:}$ |
| 18 | $\underline{\text{(1)}}$ the $\underline{\text{(a)}}$ period necessary to retire the |
| 19 | indebtedness on the improvements; or |
| 20 | (2) the period approved by the governing body for the |
| 21 | payment of the installments. |
| 22 | SECTION 2. Section 372.018, Local Government Code, is |
| 23 | amended to read as follows: |

24

Sec. 372.018. INTEREST ON ASSESSMENT; LIEN. (a) An

- 1 assessment bears interest at the rate specified by the governing
- 2 body of the municipality or county <u>beginning</u> at the time or times or
- 3 on the occurrence of one or more events specified by the governing
- 4 body. If general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, time warrants,
- 5 or temporary notes are issued to finance the improvement for which
- 6 the assessment is assessed, the interest rate for that assessment
- 7 [, but] may not exceed a rate that is one-half of one percent higher
- 8 than the actual interest rate paid on the [public] debt [used to
- 9 finance the improvement]. Interest on the assessment between the
- 10 effective date of the ordinance or order levying the assessment and
- 11 the date the first installment is payable shall be added to the
- 12 first installment. The interest on any delinquent installment
- 13 shall be added to each subsequent installment until all delinquent
- 14 installments are paid.
- 15 (b) An assessment or reassessment, with interest, the
- 16 expense of collection, and reasonable attorney's fees, if incurred,
- 17 is:
- 18 <u>(1)</u> a first and prior lien against the property
- 19 assessed;
- 20 $\underline{(2)}[\tau]$ superior to all other liens and claims except
- 21 liens or claims for state, county, school district, or municipality
- 22 ad valorem taxes; $[\tau]$ and
- (3) [is] a personal liability of and charge against the
- 24 owners of the property regardless of whether the owners are named.
- 25 <u>(c)</u> The lien is effective from the date of the ordinance or
- 26 order levying the assessment until the assessment is paid.
- 27 (d) The lien runs with the land and that portion of an

- 1 assessment payment that has not yet come due is not eliminated by
- 2 <u>foreclosure of an ad valorem tax lien.</u>
- 3 <u>(e) The assessment lien [and]</u> may be enforced by the
- 4 governing body in the same manner that an ad valorem tax lien
- 5 against real property may be enforced by the governing body.
- 6 Foreclosure of accrued installments does not eliminate the
- 7 outstanding principal balance of the assessment. Any purchaser of
- 8 the property in foreclosure takes the property subject to the
- 9 <u>assessment lien and any associated obligations</u>.
- 10 <u>(f)</u> Delinquent installments of the assessment shall incur
- 11 interest, penalties, and attorney's fees in the same manner as
- 12 delinquent ad valorem taxes. The owner of assessed property may pay
- 13 at any time all or any part of the [entire] assessment, with
- 14 interest that has accrued on the assessment, on any lot or parcel.
- 15 SECTION 3. Section 372.022, Local Government Code, is
- 16 amended to read as follows:
- 17 Sec. 372.022. SEPARATE FUNDS. A separate public
- 18 improvement district fund may [shall] be created in the municipal
- 19 or county treasury for each district. Proceeds from the sale of
- 20 bonds, temporary notes, and time warrants, and other sums
- 21 appropriated to the fund by the governing body of the municipality
- 22 or county shall be credited to the fund. The fund may be used solely
- 23 to pay costs incurred in making an improvement. When an improvement
- 24 is completed, the balance of the part of the assessment that is for
- 25 improvements shall be transferred to the fund established for the
- 26 retirement of bonds.
- SECTION 4. Section 372.023, Local Government Code, is

- 1 amended by amending Subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) and adding
- 2 Subsection (h) to read as follows:
- 3 (d) A cost payable from a special assessment that is to be
- 4 paid in installments and a cost payable by the municipality or
- 5 county as a whole but not payable from available general funds or
- 6 other available general improvement funds shall be paid:
- 7 (1) under an installment sale contract or a
- 8 reimbursement agreement with the person who contracts to install or
- 9 construct the improvement for which the costs apply;
- 10 (2) as provided by a temporary note or time warrant
- 11 <u>issued</u> by the municipality or county to reimburse a person for money
- 12 advanced or work performed in connection with an improvement; or
- 13 (3) by the issuance and sale of revenue or general
- 14 obligation bonds.
- (e) The net effective interest rate, as computed for a
- 16 public security under Section 1204.005, Government Code, on money
- 17 owed or paid under Subsection (d) may not exceed one-half of one
- 18 percent above the highest average interest rate reported by a
- 19 newspaper in a weekly bond index in the month before the date of the
- 20 contract or agreement or the issuance of the bond, temporary note,
- 21 or time warrant. The newspaper must specialize in bonds and be
- 22 <u>acceptable</u> as a reliable source for bond interest rates to the
- 23 governing body of the municipality or county that enters into the
- 24 contract or agreement or that issues the bond, temporary note, or
- 25 <u>time warrant.</u>
- 26 $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ [$\frac{\text{(e)}}{\text{(e)}}$] While an improvement is in progress, the governing
- 27 body of the municipality or county, to pay the costs of the

- 1 <u>improvement</u>, may issue temporary notes for money advanced or time
- 2 warrants to pay for work performed in connection with [the costs of]
- 3 the improvement and, on completion of the improvement, issue
- 4 revenue or general obligation bonds. The bond proceeds may be used
- 5 to repay the obligations incurred under this subsection.
- 6 $\underline{(g)}$ [f] The cost of more than one improvement may be paid:
- 7 (1) from a single issue and sale of bonds without other
- 8 consolidation proceedings before the bond issue; or
- 9 (2) under an agreement with a person who contracts to
- 10 <u>install or construct the improvement</u> and who sells the improvement
- 11 to the municipality or county.
- 12 <u>(h)</u> [(g)] The costs of any improvement include <u>interest</u>
- 13 payable on a temporary note or time warrant and all costs incurred
- 14 in connection with the issuance of bonds under Section 372.024 and
- 15 may be included in the assessments against the property in the
- 16 improvement district as provided by this subchapter.
- SECTION 5. Section 372.026, Local Government Code, is
- 18 amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 372.026. PLEDGES. (a) In this section, "obligation"
- 20 means bonds, temporary notes, time warrants, or an obligation under
- 21 an installment sale contract or reimbursement agreement.
- 22 (b) For the payment of obligations [bonds] issued or agreed
- 23 to under this subchapter and the payment of principal, interest,
- 24 and any other amounts required or permitted in connection with the
- 25 <u>obligations</u> [bonds], the governing body of the municipality or
- 26 county may pledge all or part of the income from improvements
- 27 financed under this subchapter, including income received in

- 1 installment payments under Section 372.023.
- 2 (c) [(b)] Pledged income must be fixed and collected in
- 3 amounts sufficient, with other pledged resources, to pay principal,
- 4 interest, and other expenses related to the obligations [bonds],
- 5 and to the extent required by the ordinance, [or] order, or
- 6 <u>agreement</u> authorizing the <u>obligations</u> [bonds], to pay for the
- 7 operation, maintenance, and other expenses related to improvements
- 8 authorized by this subchapter.
- 9 (d) [(c)] The obligations [bonds] may also be secured by
- 10 mortgages or deeds of trust on any real property related to the
- 11 facilities authorized under this subchapter that are owned or are
- 12 to be acquired by the municipality or county and by chattel
- 13 mortgages, liens, or security interests on any personal property
- 14 appurtenant to that real property. The governing body may
- 15 authorize the execution of trust indentures, mortgages, deeds of
- 16 trust, or other forms of encumbrance [encumbrances] as evidence of
- 17 the indebtedness.
- 18 $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ [$\frac{\text{(d)}}{\text{)}}$] The governing body may pledge to the payment of
- 19 <u>obligations</u> [bonds] all or part of a grant, donation, revenue, or
- 20 income received or to be received from the government of the United
- 21 States or any other public or private source, whether or not it is
- 22 received pursuant to an agreement or otherwise.
- 23 (f) The governing body may enter into an agreement with a
- 24 corporation created by the municipality or county under the Texas
- 25 Constitution or other law that provides for payment of amounts
- 26 pledged under this section to the corporation to secure
- 27 <u>indebtedness issued by the corporation to finance an improvement</u>

- 1 project, including indebtedness to pay capitalized interest and a
- 2 reserve fund permitted by this subchapter for revenue or general
- 3 obligation bonds issued under this subchapter and indebtedness
- 4 <u>issued to pay the corporation's costs of issuance</u>. In addition, the
- 5 agreement may provide that:
- 6 (1) the corporation is responsible for managing the
- 7 <u>district</u>; or
- 8 (2) title to one or more improvements will be held by
- 9 the corporation.
- SECTION 6. (a) All acts and proceedings related to the
- 11 authorization of any taxes or bonds, including acts and proceedings
- 12 related to an election, by a district created under Subchapter C,
- 13 Chapter 372, Local Government Code, before the effective date of
- 14 this Act are validated, ratified, and confirmed in all respects as
- 15 if the acts and proceedings occurred as authorized by law.
- 16 (b) This section does not apply to any matter that on the
- 17 effective date of this Act:
- 18 (1) is involved in litigation if the litigation
- 19 ultimately results in the matter being held invalid by a final court
- 20 judgment; or
- 21 (2) has been held invalid by a final court judgment.
- SECTION 7. (a) An installment sales contract made or
- 23 attempted to be made by a county or municipality with the party
- 24 constructing an improvement relating to an improvement district is
- 25 validated as of the date the contract was made or attempted to be
- 26 made if the contract:
- 27 (1) was made or attempted to be made before the

H.B. No. 621

- 1 effective date of this Act; and
- 2 (2) complies with Section 372.023, Local Government
- 3 Code, as amended by this Act.
- 4 (b) This section does not apply to any matter that on the
- 5 effective date of this Act:
- 6 (1) is involved in litigation if the litigation
- 7 ultimately results in the matter being held invalid by a final court
- 8 judgment; or
- 9 (2) has been held invalid by a final court judgment.
- SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
- 11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
- 12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
- 13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 14 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

ADOPTED

MAY 2 1 2009

Acting Secretary of the Senate

By:

Substitute the follow

ng for 1.B. No. 621:

By:

c.s. H.B. No. 621

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to public improvement districts designated by a county or

- 3 municipality.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 5 SECTION 1. Section 372.017(b), Local Government Code, is
- 6 amended to read as follows:
- 7 (b) After all objections have been heard and the governing
- 8 body has passed on the objections, the governing body by ordinance
- 9 or order shall levy the assessment as a special assessment on the
- 10 property. The governing body by ordinance or order shall specify
- 11 the method of payment of the assessment. The governing body may
- 12 provide that assessments be paid in periodic installments, at an
- 13 interest rate and for a period approved by the governing body. The
- 14 provision that assessments be paid in periodic installments may,
- 15 but is not required to, result in level annual installment
- 16 payments. The installments must be in amounts necessary to meet
- 17 annual costs for improvements and must continue for:
- 18 <u>(1) the</u> [a] period necessary to retire the
- 19 indebtedness on the improvements; or
- 20 (2) the period approved by the governing body for the
- 21 payment of the installments.
- 22 SECTION 2. Section 372.018, Local Government Code, is
- 23 amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 372.018. INTEREST ON ASSESSMENT; LIEN. (a) An

- 1 assessment bears interest at the rate specified by the governing
- body of the municipality or county beginning at the time or times or 2
- on the occurrence of one or more events specified by the governing 3
- body. If general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, time warrants, 4
- 5 or temporary notes are issued to finance the improvement for which
- the assessment is assessed, the interest rate for that assessment 6
- 7 [- but] may not exceed a rate that is one-half of one percent higher
- 8 than the actual interest rate paid on the [public] debt [used-to
- finance the improvement]. Interest on the assessment between the 9
- effective date of the ordinance or order levying the assessment and 10
- the date the first installment is payable shall be added to the 11
- 12 first installment. The interest on any delinquent installment
- shall be added to each subsequent installment until all delinquent 13
- 14 installments are paid.
- An assessment or reassessment, with interest, the 15 (b)
- expense of collection, and reasonable attorney's fees, if incurred, 16
- is<u>:</u> 17
- 18 (1) a first and prior lien against the property
- 19 assessed;
- (2)[7] superior to all other liens and claims except 20
- liens or claims for state, county, school district, or municipality 21
- 22 ad valorem taxes; [7] and
- (3) [is] a personal liability of and charge against the 23
- owners of the property regardless of whether the owners are named. 24
- (c) The lien is effective from the date of the ordinance or 25
- order levying the assessment until the assessment is paid. 26
- (d) The lien runs with the land and that portion of an 27

- 1 assessment payment that has not yet come due is not eliminated by
- 2 foreclosure of an ad valorem tax lien.
- 3 <u>(e) The assessment lien [and]</u> may be enforced by the
- 4 governing body in the same manner that an ad valorem tax lien
- 5 against real property may be enforced by the governing body.
- 6 Foreclosure of accrued installments does not eliminate the
- 7 outstanding principal balance of the assessment. Any purchaser of
- 8 the property in foreclosure takes the property subject to the
- 9 assessment lien and any associated obligations.
- 10 <u>(f)</u> Delinquent installments of the assessment shall incur
- 11 interest, penalties, and attorney's fees in the same manner as
- 12 delinquent ad valorem taxes. The owner of assessed property may pay
- 13 at any time all or any part of the [entire] assessment, with
- 14 interest that has accrued on the assessment, on any lot or parcel.
- 15 SECTION 3. Section 372.022, Local Government Code, is
- 16 amended to read as follows:
- Sec. 372.022. SEPARATE FUNDS. If bonds are issued, a [A]
- 18 separate public improvement district fund shall be created in the
- 19 municipal or county treasury for each district. Proceeds from the
- 20 sale of bonds, temporary notes, and time warrants, and other sums
- 21 appropriated to the fund by the governing body of the municipality
- 22 or county shall be credited to the fund. The fund may be used solely
- 23 to pay costs incurred in making an improvement. When an improvement
- 24 is completed, the balance of the part of the assessment that is for
- 25 improvements shall be transferred to the fund established for the
- 26 retirement of bonds.
- 27 SECTION 4. Section 372.023, Local Government Code, is

- 1 amended by amending Subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) and adding
- 2 Subsection (h) to read as follows:
- 3 (d) A cost payable from a special assessment that is to be
- 4 paid in installments and a cost payable by the municipality or
- 5 county as a whole but not payable from available general funds or
- 6 other available general improvement funds shall be paid:
- 7 (1) under an installment sale contract or a
- 8 reimbursement agreement with the person who contracts to install or
- 9 construct the improvement for which the costs apply;
- 10 (2) as provided by a temporary note or time warrant
- 11 <u>issued</u> by the municipality or county to reimburse a person for money
- 12 advanced or work performed in connection with an improvement; or
- 13 (3) by the issuance and sale of revenue or general
- 14 obligation bonds.
- (e) The net effective interest rate, as computed for a
- 16 public security under Section 1204.005, Government Code, on money
- 17 owed or paid under Subsection (d) may not exceed one-half of one
- 18 percent above the highest average interest rate reported by a
- 19 newspaper in a weekly bond index in the month before the date of the
- 20 contract or agreement or the issuance of the bond, temporary note,
- 21 or time warrant. The newspaper must specialize in bonds and be
- 22 <u>acceptable</u> as a reliable source for bond interest rates to the
- 23 governing body of the municipality or county that enters into the
- 24 contract or agreement or that issues the bond, temporary note, or
- 25 time warrant.
- 26 $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ [\(\frac{\((\)}}{\)}}\)}{\)}\)
- 27 body of the municipality or county, to pay the costs of the

- 1 <u>improvement</u>, may issue temporary notes <u>for money advanced</u> or time
- 2 warrants to pay for work performed in connection with [the costs of]
- 3 the improvement and, on completion of the improvement, issue
- 4 revenue or general obligation bonds. The bond proceeds may be used
- 5 to repay the obligations incurred under this subsection.
- 6 (q) $[\frac{f}{f}]$ The cost of more than one improvement may be paid:
- 7 (1) from a single issue and sale of bonds without other
- 8 consolidation proceedings before the bond issue; or
- 9 (2) under an agreement with a person who contracts to
- 10 install or construct the improvement and who sells the improvement
- 11 to the municipality or county.
- (h) [(g)] The costs of any improvement include <u>interest</u>
- 13 payable on a temporary note or time warrant and all costs incurred
- 14 in connection with the issuance of bonds under Section 372.024 and
- 15 may be included in the assessments against the property in the
- 16 improvement district as provided by this subchapter.
- 17 SECTION 5. Section 372.026, Local Government Code, is
- 18 amended to read as follows:
- 19 Sec. 372.026. PLEDGES. (a) In this section, "obligation"
- 20 means bonds, temporary notes, time warrants, or an obligation under
- 21 an installment sale contract or reimbursement agreement.
- 22 (b) For the payment of <u>obligations</u> [bonds] issued <u>or agreed</u>
- 23 to under this subchapter and the payment of principal, interest,
- 24 and any other amounts required or permitted in connection with the
- 25 <u>obligations</u> [bonds], the governing body of the municipality or
- 26 county may pledge all or part of the income from improvements
- 27 financed under this subchapter, including income received in

- 1 installment payments under Section 372.023.
- 2 (c) [(b)] Pledged income must be fixed and collected in
- 3 amounts sufficient, with other pledged resources, to pay principal,
- 4 interest, and other expenses related to the obligations [bonds],
- 5 and to the extent required by the ordinance, [or] order, or
- 6 agreement authorizing the obligations [bonds], to pay for the
- 7 operation, maintenance, and other expenses related to improvements
- 8 authorized by this subchapter.
- 9 (d) [(c)] The obligations [bonds] may also be secured by
- 10 mortgages or deeds of trust on any real property related to the
- 11 facilities authorized under this subchapter that are owned or are
- 12 to be acquired by the municipality or county and by chattel
- 13 mortgages, liens, or security interests on any personal property
- 14 appurtenant to that real property. The governing body may
- 15 authorize the execution of trust indentures, mortgages, deeds of
- 16 trust, or other forms of encumbrance [encumbrances] as evidence of
- 17 the indebtedness.
- 18 $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ [$\frac{\text{(d)}}{\text{)}}$] The governing body may pledge to the payment of
- 19 <u>obligations</u> [bonds] all or part of a grant, donation, revenue, or
- 20 income received or to be received from the government of the United
- 21 States or any other public or private source, whether or not it is
- 22 received pursuant to an agreement or otherwise.
- (f) The governing body may enter into an agreement with a
- 24 corporation created by the municipality or county under the Texas
- 25 Constitution or other law that provides for payment of amounts
- 26 pledged under this section to the corporation to secure
- 27 indebtedness issued by the corporation to finance an improvement

- 1 project, including indebtedness to pay capitalized interest and a
- 2 reserve fund permitted by this subchapter for revenue or general
- 3 obligation bonds issued under this subchapter and indebtedness
- 4 issued to pay the corporation's costs of issuance. In addition, the
- 5 agreement may provide that:
- 6 (1) the corporation is responsible for managing the
- 7 district; or
- 8 (2) title to one or more improvements will be held by
- 9 the corporation.
- 10 SECTION 6. (a) All acts and proceedings related to the
- 11 authorization of any taxes or bonds, including acts and proceedings
- 12 related to an election, by a district created under Subchapter A,
- 13 Chapter 372, Local Government Code, before the effective date of
- 14 this Act are validated, ratified, and confirmed in all respects as
- 15 if the acts and proceedings occurred as authorized by law.
- 16 (b) This section does not apply to any matter that on the
- 17 effective date of this Act:
- 18 (1) is involved in litigation if the litigation
- 19 ultimately results in the matter being held invalid by a final court
- 20 judgment; or
- 21 (2) has been held invalid by a final court judgment.
- 22 SECTION 7. (a) An installment sales contract made or
- 23 attempted to be made by a county or municipality with the party
- 24 constructing an improvement relating to an improvement district is
- 25 validated as of the date the contract was made or attempted to be
- 26 made if the contract:
- (1) was made or attempted to be made before the

- 1 effective date of this Act; and
- 2 (2) complies with Section 372.023, Local Government
- 3 Code, as amended by this Act.
- 4 (b) This section does not apply to any matter that on the
- 5 effective date of this Act:
- 6 (1) is involved in litigation if the litigation
- 7 ultimately results in the matter being held invalid by a final court
- 8 judgment; or
- 9 (2) has been held invalid by a final court judgment.
- 10 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
- 11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
- 12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
- 13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 14 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 21, 2009

TO: Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB621 by Elkins (Relating to public improvement districts designated by a county or municipality.), As Passed 2nd House

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Local Government Code to add options related to how a public improvement district could require payments on assessments and what interest rates the district may require. The bill would require a public improvement district to create a separate fund in the municipal or county treasury for each district if bonds are issued.

The bill would also add requirements related to how costs for improvement projects are to be paid from a special assessment that is to be paid in installments and a cost payable by the municipality or county as a whole but not payable from available general funds or other available general improvement funds. Provisions of the bill would establish how to calculate the net effective interest rate on money owed or paid.

Under the proposed change in statute, a governing body of a municipality or county would be authorized to enter into an agreement with a corporation created by the municipality or county for payment of amounts pledged to the corporation to secure indebtedness issued by the corporation to finance an improvement project.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated. The proposed changes in statute would provide more flexibility regarding funding and assessments related to public improvement projects. The fiscal implications to units of local government would vary depending on the improvement projects, funding methods, assessments, and terms of agreements entered into.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JOB, SD, DB, TP

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 9, 2009

TO: Honorable Royce West, Chair, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB621 by Elkins (Relating to public improvement districts designated by a county or municipality.), Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Local Government Code to add options related to how a public improvement district could require payments on assessments and what interest rates the district may require. The bill would require a public improvement district to create a separate fund in the municipal or county treasury for each district if bonds are issued.

The bill would also add requirements related to how costs for improvement projects are to be paid from a special assessment that is to be paid in installments and a cost payable by the municipality or county as a whole but not payable from available general funds or other available general improvement funds. Provisions of the bill would establish how to calculate the net effective interest rate on money owed or paid.

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Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JOB, DB, TP

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 1, 2009

TO: Honorable Royce West, Chair, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB621 by Elkins (Relating to public improvement districts designated by a county or municipality.), As Engrossed

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Local Government Code to add options related to how a public improvement district could require payments on assessments and what interest rates the district may require. The bill would allow, rather than require as stated in current statute, a public improvement district to create a separate fund in the municipal or county treasury for each district.

The bill would also add requirements related to how costs for improvement projects are to be paid from a special assessment that is to be paid in installments and a cost payable by the municipality or county as a whole but not payable from available general funds or other available general improvement funds. Provisions of the bill would establish how to calculate the net effective interest rate on money owed or paid.

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Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JOB, DB, TP

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 4, 2009

TO: Honorable Garnet Coleman, Chair, House Committee on County Affairs

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB621 by Elkins (Relating to public improvement districts designated by a county or municipality.), As Introduced

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Local Government Code to add options related to how a public improvement district could require payments on assessments and what interest rates the district may require. The bill would allow, rather than require as stated in current statute, a public improvement district to create a separate fund in the municipal or county treasury for each district.

The bill would also add requirements related to how costs for improvement projects are to be paid from a special assessment that is to be paid in installments and a cost payable by the municipality or county as a whole but not payable from available general funds or other available general improvement funds. Provisions of the bill would establish how to calculate the net effective interest rate on money owed or paid.

Under the proposed change in statute, a governing body of a municipality or county would be authorized to enter into an agreement with a corporation created by the municipality or county for payment of amounts pledged to the corporation to secure indebtedness issued by the corporation to finance an improvement project.

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No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated. The proposed changes in statute would provide more flexibility regarding funding and assessments related to public improvement projects. The fiscal implications to units of local government would vary depending on the improvement projects, funding methods, assessments, and terms of agreements entered into.

Source Agencies: LBB Staff: JOB, DB