

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 3078
By: Gallego
Elections
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In certain rural counties in Texas, it is difficult to find candidates to run for a seat on the local school board or for other local offices due to the sparse population and the scarcity of potential candidates willing to run for office. As a consequence, a political subdivision may have little or no representation, or a sitting official may be pressured to remain in office beyond his or her term.

H.B. 3078 proposes to address this situation by revising residency requirements for certain elective offices of certain political subdivisions.

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. 3078 amends the Election Code to establish that a candidate for the governing body of an independent school district or a municipality is eligible for any position of the governing body if the candidate resides anywhere in the territory from which any member of the governing body is elected. The bill makes this provision applicable only to a political subdivision that is located in a county with territory greater than 4,600 square miles and that is either an independent school district servicing less than 1,500 students or a municipality with a population of less than 6,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2011.