

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 194
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Intergovernmental Relations
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

As a result of the fires in Bastrop and Travis Counties in 2011, it became evident that emergency vehicles and first responders were inhibited from accessing residential subdivisions during evacuations resulting from fires or other natural disasters due to the subdivision having only one entrance and exit road. S.B. 194 seeks to alleviate this problem by authorizing counties to require more than one entrance for large subdivisions as part of their existing platting authority.

Under S.B. 194, the governing body of a municipality or the commissioners court, whichever is applicable, with jurisdiction over a residential subdivision containing 1,000 or more lots may adopt infrastructure standards requiring a minimum of two means of ingress and egress by emergency vehicles and first responders in new residential subdivisions.

As proposed, S.B. 194 amends current law relating to ingress and egress access by emergency vehicles in certain new residential subdivisions.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 212, Local Government Code, by adding Section 212.0102, as follows:

Sec. 212.0102. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: ACCESS BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** (a) Provides that this section applies only to a residential subdivision that is subdivided into 1,000 or more lots.

(b) Requires the governing body of a municipality to adopt infrastructure standards requiring at least two means of ingress and egress in the subdivision for use by emergency vehicles during evacuations resulting from fire or other natural disasters.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter A, Chapter 232, Local Government Code, by adding Section 232.0034, as follows:

Sec. 232.0034. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: ACCESS BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES.** (a) Provides that this section applies only to a residential subdivision that is divided into 1,000 or more lots.

(b) Requires the commissioners court to adopt infrastructure standards requiring at least two means of ingress and egress in the subdivision for use by emergency vehicles during evacuations resulting from fire or other natural disasters.

SECTION 3. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2013.