

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 506

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the issuance of tax-supported bonds by certain school
3 districts and increasing the tax rate limitation on the issuance of
4 those bonds.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 45.0031, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (a) and (e) and adding Subsection (a-1) to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) Before issuing bonds described by Section 45.001, a
10 school district must demonstrate to the attorney general under
11 Subsection (b) or (c) that, with respect to the proposed issuance,
12 the district has a projected ability to pay the principal of and
13 interest on the proposed bonds and all previously issued bonds
14 other than bonds authorized to be issued at an election held on or
15 before April 1, 1991, and issued before September 1, 1992, from a
16 tax at a rate not to exceed:

17 (1) \$0.50 per \$100 of valuation; or

18 (2) if the district satisfies the requirements
19 prescribed by Subsection (a-1), an amount per \$100 of valuation
20 that is 20 percent greater than the limitation imposed by
21 Subdivision (1).

22 (a-1) The limitation imposed by Subsection (a)(2) applies
23 to a school district that:

24 (1) is a high enrollment growth district for purposes

1 of Section 31.0214;

2 (2) has a current Financial Allocation Study for Texas
3 (FAST) rating from the comptroller of at least three stars on a
4 five-star scale, or the equivalent of that rating under any
5 subsequent system developed by the comptroller;

6 (3) has adopted a capital improvement plan in
7 accordance with Section 45.114; and

8 (4) demonstrates to the attorney general that the
9 terms of the proposed issuance will result in total interest costs
10 to the district that are at least five percent less than the total
11 interest costs that would result if the district were to issue an
12 alternate debt instrument that defers interest costs, such as a
13 capital appreciation bond.

14 (e) If a district demonstrates to the attorney general the
15 district's ability to comply with Subsection (a) using a projected
16 future taxable value of property under Subsection (c) and
17 subsequently imposes a tax to pay the principal of and interest on
18 bonds to which Subsection (a) applies at a rate that exceeds the
19 applicable limitation [~~limit~~] imposed by Subsection (a), the
20 attorney general may not approve a subsequent issuance of bonds
21 unless the attorney general finds that the district has a projected
22 ability to pay the principal of and interest on the proposed bonds
23 and all previously issued bonds to which Subsection (a) applies
24 from a tax at a rate not to exceed \$0.45 per \$100 of valuation or the
25 rate equal to 90 percent of the limitation imposed by Subsection
26 (a)(2), as applicable.

27 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 45, Education Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 45.114 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 45.114. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN. (a) The board of
3 trustees of an independent school district with an interest and
4 sinking fund tax rate of \$0.45 or greater per \$100 of valuation
5 shall adopt a capital improvement plan that addresses the
6 district's needs for additional or renovated facilities.

7 (b) The capital improvement plan must include:

8 (1) an inventory of the district's existing
9 facilities;

10 (2) a list of each proposed project for additional or
11 renovated facilities, ranked in order of priority and accompanied
12 by the following information for each project:

13 (A) details explaining the need for the
14 additional or renovated facilities;

15 (B) a proposed timeline for completion; and

16 (C) an estimate of anticipated expenses;

17 (3) an assessment of the district's capacity to fund
18 the proposed projects; and

19 (4) identification of the district's options for
20 financing the proposed projects.

21 (c) The board shall hold a public meeting on a proposed
22 capital improvement plan before adopting the plan and must make the
23 proposed plan available to the public for review and comment.

24 (d) The board shall adopt the initial capital improvement
25 plan not later than the first anniversary of the date on which the
26 board adopts an interest and sinking fund tax rate of \$0.45 or
27 greater per \$100 of valuation.

1 (e) Until the date on which the district's interest and
2 sinking fund tax rate is less than \$0.45 per \$100 of valuation, the
3 board shall annually reevaluate and, if necessary, amend the
4 capital improvement plan.

5 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Section 45.114(d), Education
6 Code, as added by this Act, the board of trustees of an independent
7 school district with an interest and sinking fund tax rate of \$0.45
8 or greater per \$100 of valuation on the effective date of this Act
9 shall adopt an initial capital improvement plan not later than the
10 first anniversary of the effective date of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.