

By: Miller of Comal

H.B. No. 2249

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the creation, powers and duties, and administration of  
3 emergency response districts; providing authority to impose taxes  
4 and issue bonds.

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

6 SECTION 1. CREATION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICT. (a)  
7 After receiving a petition that is signed by qualified voters in a  
8 county owning taxable real property in the county and that requests  
9 the creation of an emergency response district, or on its own  
10 initiative, the commissioners court shall hold a public hearing on  
11 the issue.

12 (b) If the commissioners court determines after the hearing  
13 that the issue of creation of an emergency response district should  
14 be submitted to the voters, the court shall determine proposed  
15 boundaries for the district, set a proposed maximum rate of ad  
16 valorem tax for real property in the district, and call an election  
17 on the issue.

18 (c) If a majority of the qualified voters voting at the  
19 election approve the proposition to create the emergency response  
20 district, the district is created.

21 SECTION 2. ADMINISTRATION OF DISTRICT. If an emergency  
22 response district is created as provided by Section 1 of this Act,  
23 the commissioners court shall appoint a board of commissioners to  
24 administer the district. A member of the board appointed under this

1 section serves a two-year term and is subject to removal at the will  
2 of the commissioners court.

3 SECTION 3. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. The board of  
4 commissioners of an emergency response district has the duty of  
5 providing services relating to:

- 6 (1) fire prevention and suppression;
- 7 (2) emergency medical services;
- 8 (3) rescue of persons on district waterways;
- 9 (4) enforcement of a district fire code; and
- 10 (5) regulation of hazardous materials.

11 SECTION 4. IMPOSITION OF TAX; ISSUANCE OF BONDS. An  
12 emergency response district has the power to impose an ad valorem  
13 tax on real property in the district at a rate not to exceed the rate  
14 approved at the election at which the district was created. The  
15 district may issue bonds in amounts necessary to repay indebtedness  
16 created by use of tax revenues.

17 SECTION 5. CONVERSION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT. On  
18 creation of an emergency response district under this Act, any  
19 portion of an emergency services district that is included within  
20 the boundaries of the emergency response district becomes part of  
21 the emergency response district and ceases to exist as a separate  
22 entity.

23 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,  
24 2016, but only if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th  
25 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, authorizing the creation of  
26 emergency response districts, is approved by the voters. If that  
27 amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.