

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1144

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to intermunicipal commuter rail districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 173.052, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 173.052. ADDITION OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR OTHER PUBLIC ENTITY TO DISTRICT. The following political subdivisions and other public entities may become a part of a district with the approval of the district and the governing body of the political subdivision or public entity:

(1) a county located adjacent to the county in which a creating municipality is located; or

(2) a political subdivision or other public entity [~~municipality with a population of more than 18,000~~] located in:

(A) a county described by Subdivision (1); or [~~and~~]

(B) [~~(3) a public entity located in~~] a county that has become part of the district.

SECTION 2. Section 173.205(b), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The governing body of a municipality, a county, any other political subdivision, or a public agency may donate, exchange, convey, sell, or lease land, improvements, or any other

1 interest in real or personal property to a district to promote a  
2 public purpose of the political subdivision or public agency  
3 related to commuter rail service [~~the title or the rights and~~  
4 ~~easements to property needed by the district for its purposes in~~  
5 ~~connection with the acquisition, construction, or operation of the~~  
6 ~~system~~]. The governing body of the political subdivision or public  
7 agency taking action under this subsection:

8 (1) must determine that the transaction will  
9 accomplish a public purpose of the political subdivision or public  
10 agency;

11 (2) shall ensure that the terms of the transaction  
12 accomplish and maintain a public purpose of the political  
13 subdivision or public agency; and

14 (3) may establish the value of the property and  
15 complete the transaction without complying with the requirements of  
16 Chapter 271 or 272, Local Government Code.

17 SECTION 3. Sections 173.256(d-1) and (e), Transportation  
18 Code, are amended to read as follows:

19 (d-1) For a [A] transportation infrastructure zone of a  
20 district established before January 1, 2005:

21 (1) the territory of the zone:

22 (A) [A] may consist of a contiguous or  
23 noncontiguous geographic area in the territory of one or more local  
24 governments; and

25 (B) must include a commuter rail facility or the  
26 site of a proposed commuter rail facility;

27 (2) a local government and the district may agree

1 that, at one or more specified times, the local government will pay  
2 to the district an amount that is calculated on the basis of  
3 increased ad valorem tax collections, increased sales tax  
4 collections, or both, in the area of the zone located in the local  
5 government that are attributable to an infrastructure project;

6 (3) the ~~the~~ amount paid by a local government  
7 ~~[under Subsection (d)]~~ to the ~~[a]~~ district ~~[established before~~  
8 ~~January 1, 2005,]~~ may not exceed an amount that is equal to the  
9 increase in ~~[ad valorem]~~ tax collections in the zone for the  
10 specified period; and

11 (4) a local government and the district may agree to  
12 allow the district to enter into agreements and establish programs,  
13 including agreements and programs described by Sections 311.010(b)  
14 and (h), Tax Code, that the local government and the district  
15 consider necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes  
16 described by Subsection (e).

17 (e) Money received by the district under this section may be  
18 used:

19 (1) to provide a local match for the acquisition of  
20 right-of-way in the territory of the local government; ~~[or]~~

21 (2) for design, construction, operation, or  
22 maintenance of transportation facilities in the territory of the  
23 local government; or

24 (3) for the local government's proportionate share of  
25 the cost of the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of  
26 transportation facilities that serve other areas of the district in  
27 addition to the territory of the local government.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.