H.B. No. 2529

AN ACT

relating to the governance of public housing authorities.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 392.032(b), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  A commissioner of the authority may not be an officer or employee of the county. A commissioner may be:

(1)  a tenant of a public project over which the housing authority has jurisdiction; or

(2)  a recipient of housing assistance administered through the authority's housing choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance program.

SECTION 2.  Section 392.033(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The commissioners court of each county in a regional housing authority shall appoint a person to serve as a commissioner of the authority. Subsequently, the commissioners court of each county shall appoint successors to the commissioner of the authority appointed by that commissioners court. An appointed commissioner of the authority may not be an officer or employee of the county. A commissioner may be:

(1)  a tenant of a public project over which the housing authority has jurisdiction; or

(2)  a recipient of housing assistance administered through the authority's housing choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance program.

SECTION 3.  The heading to Section 392.0331, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 392.0331.  APPOINTMENT OF TENANT REPRESENTATIVE OR CERTAIN OTHER RECIPIENTS OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE AS COMMISSIONER OF MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, OR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY.

SECTION 4.  Sections 392.0331(b), (b-1), (c), and (d), Local Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b)  Except as provided by Subsection [~~Subsections~~] (b-1) [~~and (b-2)~~], in appointing commissioners under Section 392.031, a municipality with a municipal housing authority composed of five commissioners shall appoint at least one commissioner to the authority who is a tenant of a public housing project over which the authority has jurisdiction or who is a recipient of housing assistance administered through the authority's housing choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance program. In [~~Except as provided by Subsection (b-3), in~~] appointing commissioners under Section 392.031, a municipality with a municipal housing authority composed of seven or more commissioners shall appoint at least two commissioners to the authority who are tenants of a public housing project over which the authority has jurisdiction or who are recipients of housing assistance administered through the authority's housing choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance program.

(b-1)  The presiding officer of the governing body of a municipality that has a municipal housing authority in which the total number of units is 150 or fewer is not required to appoint a tenant or a recipient of housing assistance to the position of commissioner as otherwise required by Subsection (b) if the presiding officer has provided timely notice of a vacancy in the position to all eligible tenants or recipients of housing assistance and is unable to fill the position with an eligible tenant or recipient of housing assistance before the 60th day after the date the position becomes vacant.

(c)  In appointing commissioners under Section 392.032, a county shall appoint at least one commissioner to a county housing authority who is a tenant of a public housing project over which the county housing authority has jurisdiction or who is a recipient of housing assistance administered through the authority's housing choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance program.

(d)  In appointing commissioners under Section 392.033, a county or counties comprising a regional housing authority shall appoint at least one commissioner to a regional housing authority who is a tenant of a public housing project over which the regional housing authority has jurisdiction or who is a recipient of housing assistance administered through the authority's housing choice voucher program or project-based rental assistance program. If more than one county comprises a regional housing authority, the counties shall agree to a method for appointing to the regional housing authority the [~~tenant~~] member who is a tenant or a recipient of housing assistance [~~to the regional housing authority~~].

SECTION 5.  Sections 392.0331(b-2) and (b-3), Local Government Code, are repealed.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2529 was passed by the House on April 18, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2529 was passed by the Senate on May 15, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                    Date

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                  Governor