By:  Perry, et al. S.B. No. 1024

(Craddick)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to services in an area annexed by certain tier 1 municipalities under a service plan.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 43, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 43.0565 to read as follows:

Sec. 43.0565.  ACCESS TO SERVICES BY CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES IN ANNEXED AREA. (a)  A municipality with a population of 350,000 or less shall provide access to services provided to an annexed area under a service plan described by Section 43.056 that is identical or substantially similar to access to those services in the municipality.

(b)  A person residing in an annexed area subject to a service plan may apply for a writ of mandamus against a municipality that fails to provide access to services in accordance with Subsection (a). In the action for the writ:

(1)  the court may order the parties to participate in mediation;

(2)  the municipality has the burden of proving that the municipality complied with Subsection (a);

(3)  the person may provide evidence that the costs for the person to access the services are disproportionate to the costs incurred by a municipal resident to access those services; and

(4)  if the person prevails:

(A)  the municipality shall:

(i)  disannex the property that is the subject of the suit within a reasonable period specified by the court; or

(ii)  comply with Subsection (a); and

(B)  the court shall award the person's attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the action for the writ.

(c)  A municipality's governmental immunity to suit and from liability is waived and abolished to the extent of liability created under this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.