By:  Lucio S.B. No. 2005

(In the Senate - Filed March 7, 2019; March 21, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Intergovernmental Relations; April 26, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 3; April 26, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Lucio                X

Schwertner               X

Alvarado             X

Campbell                 X

Fallon               X

Menéndez             X

Nichols                  X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing certain border counties and municipalities in those counties to address population growth and prevent the proliferation of substandard dwellings; creating a criminal offense; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 242, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS IN CERTAIN BORDER COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES LOCATED IN THOSE COUNTIES

Sec. 242.051.  APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to:

(1)  a county with a population of more than 400,000 that is:

(A)  located along an international border; and

(B)  adjacent to another county with a population of more than 400,000; or

(2)  a municipality located in that county if:

(A)  the county does not exercise in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction the authority described by this subchapter; and

(B)  the county by resolution authorizes the municipality to exercise in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction the authority described by this subchapter.

Sec. 242.052.  REGULATORY AUTHORITY. (a)  The commissioners court of a county to which this subchapter applies may, by order, regulate residential land development in the unincorporated area of the county. The governing body of a municipality to which this subchapter applies may, by ordinance, regulate residential land development in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction. By this authority, the commissioners court or governing body may prevent the proliferation of colonias and other areas with substandard buildings by:

(1)  adopting regulations relating to:

(A)  maximum densities, including the size of lots;

(B)  the height, number of stories, size, or number of buildings or other structures that may be located on a lot or tract;

(C)  the location of buildings and other structures on a lot or tract; and

(D)  the preparation of a plan for utility development, environmental effect and adaptation, utility extension, and capacity planning and providing financial analysis of the plan; and

(2)  adopting building codes to promote safe and uniform building, plumbing, and electrical standards.

(b)  If a tract of land is appraised as agricultural or open-space land by the appraisal district, the commissioners court or governing body may not regulate land development on that tract under the authority granted by Subsection (a)(1)(B) or (C) or (a)(2).

(c)  The authority granted under this section does not authorize the commissioners court or governing body to adopt an order regulating commercial property that is uninhabitable.

(d)  The authority granted under this section does not authorize the commissioners court or governing body to adopt an order that limits or otherwise impairs the rights of individuals or entities in the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or other minerals.

Sec. 242.053.  BUILDING PERMITS. (a)  The county or municipality, as appropriate, shall issue a building permit if the person submitting the application for the permit:

(1)  files information relating to the location of the residence;

(2)  files the building plans for the residence; and

(3)  complies with the applicable regulations relating to the issuance of the permit.

(b)  The county or municipality may charge a reasonable building permit fee.

(c)  The county or municipality shall deposit fees collected under this section in an account in its general fund and dedicate the fees to the building permit program. The funds in the account may be used only for the purpose of administering the building permit program.

Sec. 242.054.  MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE PREVAILS OVER COUNTY ORDER. If an order adopted by the county under this subchapter conflicts with an ordinance of a municipality, the municipal ordinance prevails within the municipality's jurisdiction to the extent of the conflict.

Sec. 242.055.  EXISTING AUTHORITY UNAFFECTED. The authority granted by this subchapter does not affect the authority of the commissioners court or governing body to adopt an order or ordinance under other law.

Sec. 242.056.  INJUNCTION. The county or municipality, in a suit brought by the appropriate attorney representing the county or municipality in the district court, is entitled to appropriate injunctive relief to prevent the violation or threatened violation of the entity's order or ordinance adopted under this subchapter from continuing or occurring.

Sec. 242.057.  PENALTY; EXCEPTION. (a)  A person commits an offense if the person violates a restriction or prohibition imposed by an order or ordinance adopted under this subchapter. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(b)  It is an exception to the application of this section that:

(1)  the person is an owner-occupant of a residential dwelling that is classified by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs as a low-income household;

(2)  the dwelling was constructed before the effective date of this subchapter;

(3)  the violation related to a building standard or building code for that dwelling; and

(4)  the county or municipality, as appropriate:

(A)  did not make available to the person a grant or loan in an amount sufficient to cure the violation; or

(B)  made available to the person a loan that was sufficient to cure the violation but that caused the housing expenses of the person to exceed 30 percent of the person's net income.

SECTION 2.  The heading to Chapter 242, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 242. AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY TO REGULATE SUBDIVISIONS AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT [~~IN AND OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITY'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION~~]

SECTION 3.  Chapter 242, Local Government Code, is amended by designating Sections 242.001, 242.0015, 242.002, and 242.003 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter heading to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. AUTHORITY TO REGULATE SUBDIVISIONS IN AND OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITY'S EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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