

By: Button

H.B. No. 2943

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the system by which an application for a low income housing tax credit is scored.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2306.6710(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) If an application satisfies the threshold criteria, the department shall score and rank the application using a point system that:

(1) prioritizes in descending order criteria regarding:

(A) financial feasibility of the development based on the supporting financial data required in the application that will include a project underwriting pro forma from the permanent or construction lender;

(B) quantifiable community participation with respect to the development, evaluated on the basis of a resolution concerning the development that is voted on and adopted by the following, as applicable:

(i) the governing body of a municipality in which the proposed development site is to be located;

(ii) subject to Subparagraph (iii), the commissioners court of a county in which the proposed development site is to be located, if the proposed site is to be located in an

1 area of a county that is not part of a municipality; or

2 (iii) the commissioners court of a county  
3 in which the proposed development site is to be located and the  
4 governing body of the applicable municipality, if the proposed site  
5 is to be located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a  
6 municipality;

7 (C) the income levels of tenants of the  
8 development;

9 (D) the size and quality of the units;

10 (E) the rent levels of the units;

11 (F) the cost of the development by square foot;

12 (G) the services to be provided to tenants of the  
13 development;

14 (H) whether, at the time the complete application  
15 is submitted or at any time within the two-year period preceding the  
16 date of submission, the proposed development site is located in an  
17 area declared to be a disaster under Section [418.014](#); and

18 (I) quantifiable community participation with  
19 respect to the development, evaluated on the basis of written  
20 statements from any neighborhood organizations on record with the  
21 state or county in which the development is to be located and whose  
22 boundaries contain the proposed development site; ~~and~~

23 ~~[(J) the level of community support for the~~  
24 ~~application, evaluated on the basis of a written statement from the~~  
25 ~~state representative who represents the district containing the~~  
26 ~~proposed development site,]~~

27 (2) uses criteria imposing penalties on applicants or

1 affiliates who have requested extensions of department deadlines  
2 relating to developments supported by housing tax credit  
3 allocations made in the application round preceding the current  
4 round or a developer or principal of the applicant that has been  
5 removed by the lender, equity provider, or limited partners for its  
6 failure to perform its obligations under the loan documents or  
7 limited partnership agreement; and

8 (3) encourages applicants to provide free notary  
9 public service to the residents of the developments for which the  
10 allocation of housing tax credits is requested.

11 SECTION 2. Section 2306.6718(b), Government Code, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (b) The department shall provide the elected officials with  
14 an opportunity to comment on the application during the application  
15 evaluation process [~~provided by Section 2306.6710~~] and shall  
16 consider those comments in evaluating applications [~~under that~~  
17 ~~section~~].

18 SECTION 3. Section 2306.6710(f), Government Code, is  
19 repealed.

20 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
21 to an application for low income housing tax credits that is  
22 submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
23 during an application cycle that is based on the 2020 qualified  
24 allocation plan or a subsequent plan adopted by the governing board  
25 of the department. An application that is submitted during an  
26 application cycle that is based on an earlier qualified allocation  
27 plan is governed by the law in effect on the date the application

1 cycle began, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
2 purpose.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.