

By: Watson

S.B. No. 546

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

1 through the authority's housing choice voucher program or
2 project-based rental assistance program.

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

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

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

10 (b) Except as provided by Subsection [~~Subsections~~] (b-1)
11 [~~and (b-2)~~], in appointing commissioners under Section 392.031, a
12 municipality with a municipal housing authority composed of five
13 commissioners shall appoint at least one commissioner to the
14 authority who is a tenant of a public housing project over which the
15 authority has jurisdiction or who is a recipient of housing
16 assistance administered through the authority's housing choice
17 voucher program or project-based rental assistance program.

18 In [~~Except as provided by Subsection (b-3), in~~] appointing
19 commissioners under Section 392.031, a municipality with a
20 municipal housing authority composed of seven or more commissioners
21 shall appoint at least two commissioners to the authority who are
22 tenants of a public housing project over which the authority has
23 jurisdiction or who are recipients of housing assistance
24 administered through the authority's housing choice voucher
25 program or project-based rental assistance program.

26 (b-1) The presiding officer of the governing body of a
27 municipality that has a municipal housing authority in which the

1 total number of units is 150 or fewer is not required to appoint a
2 tenant or a recipient of housing assistance to the position of
3 commissioner as otherwise required by Subsection (b) if the
4 presiding officer has provided timely notice of a vacancy in the
5 position to all eligible tenants or recipients of housing
6 assistance and is unable to fill the position with an eligible
7 tenant or recipient of housing assistance before the 60th day after
8 the date the position becomes vacant.

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

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

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

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