

By: Thompson of Brazoria

H.B. No. 553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the approval by commissioners courts of the annual
3 budget of emergency services districts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 775, Health and Safety
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 775.0737 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 775.0737. BUDGET APPROVAL REQUIRED. (a) This section
8 does not apply to a district described by Section 775.302(a).

9 (b) The commissioners court of a county in which a district
10 is located shall adopt a schedule for the district to submit to the
11 county for final approval the district's annual budget, tax rate
12 calculations and notices, and recommended tax rate.

13 (c) The schedule must take into account requirements of this
14 chapter, Chapter 26, Tax Code, and Section 21, Article VIII, Texas
15 Constitution, applicable to adopting a district tax rate, and must
16 provide a reasonable amount of time for the commissioners court to
17 review the submissions required by Subsection (d). If the district
18 is located wholly or partly in more than one county, the county
19 commissioners court of each county in which the district is located
20 shall coordinate to develop the schedule jointly.

21 (d) In accordance with the schedule adopted under this
22 section, the board shall submit to each commissioners court of a
23 county in which the district is located the district's annual
24 budget, tax rate calculations and notices, and recommended tax

1 rate.

2 (e) If a commissioners court does not approve or deny a
3 budget submitted under this section before the 31st day after the
4 date the budget is submitted, the commissioners court is considered
5 to have approved the budget.

6 (f) If a commissioners court does not approve or deny a tax
7 rate recommended under this section before the 31st day after the
8 date the recommended tax rate is submitted, the commissioners court
9 is considered to have approved the recommended tax rate.

10 (g) If a commissioners court denies the annual budget
11 submitted under Subsection (d), the district may not make
12 expenditures under that budget except for an obligation incurred
13 before the beginning of the fiscal year for which the budget was
14 submitted.

15 (h) If a commissioners court denies the tax rate submitted
16 under Subsection (d), the district may not impose the tax at a rate
17 greater than that imposed in the fiscal year preceding the one for
18 which the tax rate was submitted.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.