

By: Tinderholt

H.B. No. 4729

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the amounts budgeted by certain political subdivisions
3 for fire protection, law enforcement, or emergency medical
4 services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended
7 by adding Section 140.0046 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 140.0046. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO REDUCE BUDGET FOR
9 PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Comparable service" means:

11 (A) the services provided by a department or
12 similar unit of a political subdivision that are identifiable in
13 the political subdivision's budget, if the political subdivision is
14 separated into departments or similar units; or

15 (B) a service provided by a political subdivision
16 that is identifiable in the political subdivision's budget, if the
17 political subdivision is not separated into units described by
18 Paragraph (A).

19 (2) "Public safety service" means a fire protection,
20 law enforcement, or emergency medical service.

21 (b) This section does not apply to a school district.

22 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a political
23 subdivision may not adopt a budget that allocates an amount of money
24 to provide a public safety service that is less than the amount

1 allocated to provide that service in the preceding fiscal year if:

2 (1) the reduction in the amount of money allocated to
3 provide the public safety service is greater than the reduction in
4 the amount of money allocated in that budget to provide a comparable
5 service if compared to the amounts allocated to provide those
6 services in the preceding fiscal year; and

7 (2) the percentage difference between the amount of
8 money allocated in that budget to provide the public safety service
9 and the amount allocated to provide that service in the preceding
10 fiscal year is greater than the percentage difference between the
11 amount of money allocated in that budget to provide the comparable
12 service and the amount allocated to provide that comparable service
13 in the preceding fiscal year.

14 (d) A political subdivision may adopt a budget that does not
15 meet the requirements of Subsection (c) as it relates to a public
16 safety service if the political subdivision will not provide that
17 service in the fiscal year for which the budget is adopted.

18 (e) For purposes of this section, the amount of money
19 allocated to provide a service includes all maintenance,
20 operations, and debt service costs associated with providing the
21 service.

22 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
23 to a budget adopted by a political subdivision on or after the
24 effective date of this Act.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.