

1-1 By: Blanco S.B. No. 542  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 20, 2023; February 17, 2023,  
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government;  
 1-4 April 6, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 6, 2023,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10			X	
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 542 By: Bettencourt

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the delegation of certain authority of a county judge or  
 1-22 commissioners court in certain counties.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 81.029(a), Local Government Code, is  
 1-25 amended to read as follows:

1-26 (a) This section applies only to a county judge in a county  
 1-27 that has a population of more than 800,000 and is located on the  
 1-28 international border, other than a county to which Section 81.0291  
 1-29 applies.

1-30 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Local Government Code,  
 1-31 is amended by adding Section 81.0291 to read as follows:

1-32 Sec. 81.0291. DELEGATION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITY OF COUNTY  
 1-33 JUDGE OR COMMISSIONERS COURT IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section  
 1-34 applies only to a county that:

- 1-35 (1) has a population of more than 800,000;
- 1-36 (2) is located on the international border; and
- 1-37 (3) borders another state.

1-38 (b) A county judge may file an order with the commissioners  
 1-39 court of a county delegating to a county commissioner of the  
 1-40 commissioners court, a chief administrator, or another county  
 1-41 officer or employee the ability to sign orders or other official  
 1-42 documents associated with the county judge's office. The  
 1-43 delegating order must clearly indicate the types of orders or  
 1-44 official documents that the county commissioner, chief  
 1-45 administrator, officer, or employee may sign on behalf of the  
 1-46 county judge.

1-47 (c) A county judge may file a standing order of emergency  
 1-48 delegation of authority that clearly indicates the types of orders  
 1-49 or official documents that the county commissioner, chief  
 1-50 administrator, officer, or employee may sign on behalf of the  
 1-51 county judge in the event of an emergency or disaster.

1-52 (d) An order or official document signed by the county  
 1-53 commissioner, chief administrator, officer, or employee under the  
 1-54 delegated authority of the county judge under this section has the  
 1-55 same effect as an order of the county judge.

1-56 (e) The county judge may at any time revoke the delegated  
 1-57 authority or transfer the authority to a different county  
 1-58 commissioner, chief administrator, officer, or employee by filing  
 1-59 an order with the commissioners court.

1-60 (f) The commissioners court by order may delegate

2-1 managerial authority of the commissioners court to a county chief  
2-2 administrator. The delegating order must clearly indicate the  
2-3 specific managerial authority delegated to the administrator. By  
2-4 subsequent order, the commissioners court may revoke or modify the  
2-5 managerial authority delegated to the administrator.

2-6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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