By:  Kerwin (Senate Sponsor - King) H.B. No. 5671

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2025; May 21, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government; May 23, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0, 1 present not voting; May 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                 Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Bettencourt       X

Middleton                         X

Cook              X

Gutierrez         X

Nichols           X

Paxton            X

West              X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the election of directors for and the authority to issue bonds of the Johnson County Special Utility District.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 7216, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Sections 7216.052 and 7216.053 to read as follows:

Sec. 7216.052.  DIRECTOR ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to be listed on the ballot as a candidate for or to serve as a director, a person must be:

(1)  a qualified voter;

(2)  a retail water or sewer service customer of the district; and

(3)  an owner of:

(A)  land receiving services from the district; or

(B)  a beneficial interest in a trust that owns land receiving services from the district.

Sec. 7216.053.  ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FROM SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS. (a) The board by rule may provide for the election of some or all of the directors from single-member districts.

(b)  In addition to requirements of Section 7216.052, if the board provides for the election of some or all of the directors from single-member districts, to be eligible to be listed on the ballot as a candidate for or to serve as a director from a single-member district, a person must be a resident of that district.

SECTION 2.  Section 7216.101, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7216.101.  SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT POWERS. The [~~Except as specifically limited by Section 7216.102, the~~] district has all of the rights, powers, privileges, authority, functions, and duties provided by general law applicable to a special utility district created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, including those provided by Chapters 49 and 65, Water Code.

SECTION 3.  Subchapter D, Chapter 7216, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 7216.152 to read as follows:

Sec. 7216.152.  AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS. (a) The district has the rights, powers, duties, and obligations of an issuer under Chapter 1371, Government Code.

(b)  Sections 49.181 and 49.182, Water Code, do not apply to the district.

SECTION 4.  Section 7216.102, Special District Local Laws Code, is repealed.

SECTION 5.  (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

(b)  The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c)  The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.

(d)  All requirements of the constitution and laws of this state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled and accomplished.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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