



Emergency Services Districts (ESD's)

FIRE

RESCUE

EMS

SUPPORT

HB 4275/SB 2470



HB 4878



HB 4922/SB 334

Service Level Protection for Residents

Municipal annexation and removal of territory from an ESD can reduce the level of emergency services provided to citizens.

These bills require that either municipalities meet or exceed the ESD service levels after annexation, or leave the area in the ESD, or pay the ESD to maintain service levels.

**Authors: Vice Chair Rogers
and Vice-Chair Springer**

Clarify Authority from Voters

ESDs created at voter request by petition and election of the existing community.

ESDs created to provide best quality emergency services within the strict limits of the available tax rate.

Duplication of services wastes tax payer resources, can result in poor patient care, and unnecessary loss of property.

Author: Vice-Chair Rogers

Provide Preventative Health Services

Reduces use of 9-1-1 System for routine care without increasing tax burden.

Allows ESDs to provide routine services, such as immunizations, screenings, checkups, and patient counseling.

In 87th passed House by 117-10 and reported from Senate Local Government 7-0

**Authors: Chair Oliverson
and Chair Schwertner**

10,000,000

Texans Served



OPPOSE

HB 1776 SB 659

SB 175

SB 978

Removes Authority from Voters

ESDs can only expand territory by receipt of petition and subsequent approval by majority of voters at an election.

This bill enables a city to supplant the will of the voters by refusing to consent to an ESD annexation election regardless of the whether the city provides good emergency services, or any services at all, within the city limits or its ETJ.

Imposes Burdens on Volunteers

The bill removes local control over legislative policy and communication from ESDs and forces volunteer/nonpolitical board members to travel to Austin from all over Texas to spend time away from paying jobs and family.

It is more efficient for the voice of the ESD community to be heard through its association representatives rather than hundreds of individual board members.

Eliminates Access to Incremental Funding

This bill eliminates the de minimis tax rate calculations from Truth-in-Taxation process established by SB2 in 2019, and agreed to between the Senate and House.

ESDs already have a constitutional property tax cap of \$0.10 and as a result of the de minimis provisions are able to obtain a modest increase of \$500,000 in revenues from existing and new properties without being required to conduct an expensive election.

Approximately 300 of the 350 ESDs in the state would be negatively impacted.