




Emergency Services Districts (ESDs)





OPPOSE HB 1775 by Rep. Thompson


-  **The committee substitute has strongly rejected language**

The committee substitute for HB 1775 added language from HB 553 from last session
HB 553 had **132 negative comments** in committee, only 9 positive comments
HB 553 **died in committee last session** with so much opposition
-  **Lack of stakeholder input**

The committee substitute language (HB 553) was added this session in a formal meeting without the ability for stakeholders to review it before the committee vote
-  **Answer looking for a problem**

HB 553 language is a statewide answer to a local issue (sledge hammer to an ant)
-  **There is already accountability of an ESD Commissioner**

If a County Commissioner appoints the ESD Commissioner disapproves of the tax rate or budget, he/she can replace the ESD Commissioner (every 2 years)
-  **There is already a budget safeguard**

SB 2 (from 2019) already limits budget and tax increases and an ESD's tax rate is constitutionally capped at \$0.10.
-  **It's a bad bill**

County Commssioners are NOT emergency service experts and don't know what the emergency services budget should be;
HB 553 says the County Commissioners Court shall approve the budget of the ESD;
what other government entity has their budget approved by another government entity?

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