

SUBJECT: Creating Southwest Denton County Road and Utility District

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Counts, Yost, R. Lewis, Puente, Stiles, Walker

0 nays

3 absent — Combs, Corte, King

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 6 — 30-0

WITNESSES: For — Phillip Huffines, Keith Jackson, Benbrook Winchester, L.P.

Against — None

DIGEST: CSSB 1607 would create the Southwest Denton County Road and Utility District as a conservation and reclamation district, road district and municipal utility district, under Art. 16, sec. 59, and Art. 3, sec. 52, of the Texas Constitution. The bill specifies the boundaries of the district; the district board could annex or exclude territory with consent of the Fort Worth city council.

The initial members of the three-member district board would be appointed by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission upon receipt of a petition of holders of a majority of the land value in the district. Board members would be elected to four-year staggered terms. The voters of the district would have to confirm its creation in an election.

The district could levy an assessment against all taxable real property in the district and could issue bonds or certificates of assessment, approved by district voters and secured by assessment revenue.

The bill would take immediate effect if approved by two thirds of the membership of each house.

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NOTES: The committee substitute would allow property owners to pay assessments in installments, allow the district to request county maintenance of roads constructed by the district and revise the district boundaries.