

**SUBJECT:** Enabling legislation for HJR 96

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Craddick, Ramsay, Grusendorf, Heflin, Holzheuser, Oliveira, Telford

0 nays

4 absent— Horn, Stiles, Thompson, Williamson

**WITNESSES:** For — Curtis J. Cook, Association of Rural Fire Prevention Districts, Inc.

Against — None

**BACKGROUND :** The Texas Constitution authorizes the Legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts, but limits the tax these districts may charge to three cents per \$100 of the value of taxable property.

**DIGEST:** HB 2649 would authorize a rural fire prevention district located in Harris County to levy a tax of five cents per \$100 of the taxable value of the property. The tax increase would have to be approved by a majority of the residents in the district.

HB 2649 would take effect immediately following the approval of HJR 96 at the November 4, 1997 election. If HJR 96 was not approved by the voters, HB 2649 would have no effect.

**SUPPORTERS/  
OPPONENTS  
SAY:** See arguments for HJR 96.