

SUBJECT: Appointing commissioners of certain emergency services districts

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — W. Smith, Naishtat, Bolton, Coleman, Farabee, Harless,
Leibowitz

0 nays

2 absent — Heflin, T. Smith

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code, ch. 776 governs emergency services districts in counties of 125,000 or less. Under sec. 776.034(a), for a district located in more than one county, the district is governed by an elected five member-board.

DIGEST: Under HB 3407, the five-member governing board of an emergency services district located in a county with a population of less than 21,000 and a county with a population greater than 47,400 would be appointed by the commissioners court of the larger county.

A commissioner on the board would serve a two-year term. To be eligible for appointment to the board, a person would have to be at least 18 years of age and reside in the district. Two commissioners would have to reside in the smaller county and three commissioners would have to reside in the larger county. On January 1 of each year, the commissioners court would appoint a successor for each emergency commissioner whose term had expired. The commissioners court also would have to fill a vacancy on the board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The district's existing board would be abolished on the bill's effective date and the commissioners court would appoint an initial board.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.