

SUBJECT: Creating the Liberty County Drainage District

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Larson, Metcalf, Dominguez, Farrar, Harris, T. King, Lang,  
Nevárez, Price, Ramos

0 nays

1 absent — Oliverson

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: HB 1820 would create the Liberty County Drainage District and, if the district's creation were confirmed by a public vote, transfer the assets of the three current districts in the county to the new district.

The Liberty County Drainage District would be coextensive with the boundaries of Liberty County and would be governed by a board of five directors appointed by the county commissioners court. One director would represent the district at large, and the other four would each represent one of the county commissioners precincts. The bill would establish eligibility and term requirements for the district's directors.

The district would have all the rights, powers, privileges, functions, and duties applicable to a drainage district under state law. The district would not be allowed to exercise the power of eminent domain unless this bill passed by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to each house.

HB 1820 would require the Liberty County Drainage District's temporary directors to hold an election to confirm the district's creation before September 1, 2022. If the creation was confirmed, Liberty County Drainage District No. 4, Old River Drainage District 1-Liberty County, and Raywood Drainage District 2 would be required to transfer their assets, debts, and contractual rights and obligations to the Liberty County Drainage District and begin dissolution proceedings.

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This 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, 2019.