

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 236
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Intergovernmental Relations
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, there exists no law enforcing the voting rights for qualified voters in annexed municipal areas. The concern is that residents will be precluded from participating in a city election because of pending approval by the United States Department of Justice. S.B. 236 provides for the enforcement of voting rights in annexed municipal areas by making void any election held where qualified voters are not allowed to vote.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 236 protects the voting rights of qualified voters in annexed municipal areas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 43Z, Local Government Code, by adding Section 43.905, as follows:

Sec. 43.905. EXTENSION OF VOTING RIGHTS TO RESIDENTS OF ANNEXED AREA. Prohibits a municipality that annexes an area under Chapters 43B-E, Local Government Code, from conducting an election unless the qualified voters of the annexed area are allowed to vote in the election. Provides that election results are void if a municipality holds an election and the residents of an annexed area described in Subsection (a) are not allowed to vote in the election. Sets forth types of elections to which this section does not apply.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.