

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2384
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

In the past, residents of Fort Worth have voted against recognizing a police or firefighter association as the exclusive bargaining agent of the city's police officers and firefighters. Recent growth in the city has placed Fort Worth over the 460,000 person limit at which a municipality is required to recognize a police officers or firefighters association as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent of its police officers and firefighters if a petition calling for that recognition is submitted. H.B. 2384 provides that certain municipalities that have not recognized a firefighters or police officers association before September 1, 2001, must receive voter approval before recognizing an association and operating under the provisions regarding firefighter and police officer employment matters.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 143I, Local Government Code, by adding Section 143.3015, as follows:

Sec. 143.3015. LIMITATION ON MUNICIPALITIES COVERED BY SUBCHAPTER: VOTER APPROVAL. (a) Requires the governing body of certain municipalities to receive voter approval under this section before operating under the other provisions of this subchapter.

- (b) Requires the governing body to call an election under certain conditions.
- (c) Sets forth requirements for a petition for election.
- (d) Requires the municipal secretary, not later than the 40th working day after the date a petition is presented to the governing body, to certify to the governing body the number and percentage of registered voters signing the petition.
- (e) Requires the governing body, upon receiving a petition in compliance with this subchapter, to order an election submitting to the voters the question of whether this subchapter should be adopted. Sets forth guidelines regarding the date of the election.
- (f) Sets forth guidelines regarding the printing of the ballot for an election called under this section.
- (g) Requires an election authorized by this section to be held and the returns to be prepared and canvassed in conformity with the Election Code.
- (h) Authorizes the municipality to operate under the other provisions of this subchapter only if a majority of the votes cast at the election favor the proposition.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.