

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R4738 QS-D

S.B. 693
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AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Under current law, a municipal utility district (MUD) board member is able to practice what is called "seat jumping." This means that board members, who may soon be facing re-election, can resign their seat and have themselves appointed to a vacant seat on the board to serve out the term of the vacant seat, thereby avoiding running for re-election. This process takes choice away from voters who live in a MUD. At present, there is nothing in statute to prohibit the practice of seat jumping. As proposed, S.B. 693 prohibits a MUD board from appointing to a vacant seat a person who resigned from the board in the two years preceding the vacancy date; resigned on or after the vacancy date but before the vacancy is filled; or was defeated in a district election in the two years preceding the vacancy date.

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 Subchapter C, Chapter 54, Water Code, by adding Section 54.103, as follows:

Sec. 54.103. LIMITATION ON FILLING VACANCIES. Prohibits the board of a municipal utility district from appointing a person to fill a vacancy on the board if the person meets certain criteria.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.