

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1352  
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Intergovernmental Relations  
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As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The Travis County Healthcare District (Central Health) was created in 2004, under Chapter 281 (Hospital Districts in Counties of at Least 190,000), Health and Safety Code, which gives the Travis County Commissioners Court certain oversight responsibilities over Central Health, primarily appointing a number of members to the Central Health board of managers (board) and approving Central Health's budget and tax rate. Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 281, Health and Safety Code, the Travis County Commissioners Court has chosen to delegate to the board the method of making purchases. Additionally, changes to Chapter 281 since 2004 have given Central Health additional authority to manage its operations, such as the ability to rename itself and to enter service contracts without the approval of the commissioners court.

Central Health leases a number of facilities and properties to and from others. In line with the prior responsibilities delegated to the board and in light of the continued oversight of Central Health by the commissioners court through approval of the budget and tax rate, as well as appointment authority, S.B. 1352 permits Central Health to conduct its own lease transactions without commissioners court approval. S.B. 1352 also explicitly requires any action that is to be taken under this section be posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act so that the public has the required notice of any proposed lease.

As proposed, S.B. 1352 amends current law relating to the powers of certain hospital districts regarding district properties and facilities.

### **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 the heading to Section 281.0511, Health and Safety Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 281.0511. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY AND POWERS RELATING TO PROPERTY AND FACILITIES OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 281.0511, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (c), as follows:

(c) Authorizes the board of the hospital district (board), notwithstanding Section 281.050 (Powers Relating to District Property, Facilities, and Equipment), to lease any property, or hospital facility without the approval of the commissioners court. Requires the board to post public notice of any proposed transaction under this subsection as required by Chapter 551 (Open Meetings), Government Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2011.