

- SUBJECT:** Changing annexation requirements for certain special districts
- COMMITTEE:** Land and Resource Management — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Herrero, Bell, Bailes, Blanco, Faircloth, Krause
0 nays
1 present not voting — Stucky
- WITNESSES:** For — Jeffrey Wittig, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 3; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Bill Oswald, Koch Companies; Andy Barrett; Jack Erskine; Steve Koebele; Julie Moore; Bradford Shields)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Richard Bailey, City of Austin)
- BACKGROUND:** The Special District Local Laws Code governs the process by which municipalities annex special purpose districts. For certain Travis County special purposes districts, a municipality may annex the district on the earlier of the 20th anniversary of the date the district was confirmed, or on the installation of 90 percent of all works, improvements, facilities, plants, equipment, and appliances necessary and adequate to:
- provide service to the proposed development within the district;
 - accomplish the purposes for which the district was created; and
 - exercise the powers provided by general law and this chapter.
- Concerns have been raised that this process does not provide stakeholders in Travis County with sufficient input regarding annexation decisions.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 4047 would remove the authorization for a municipality planning to annex all or part of Travis County Municipal Utility District Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, or of the Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 19, on the earlier of certain dates.
- Instead, the bill would require the governing body of a municipality to

first adopt a resolution of intention regarding the planned annexation and to communicate the resolution to all districts identified by the bill.

Upon receipt of the resolution, all of the districts would be required to call an election to be held on the next uniform election date to authorize or reject the annexation, which would be funded by the municipality seeking the annexation. The bill would allow a municipality to annex the relevant district only if a majority of the total number of voters voting in all of the districts' elections voted to approve the annexation.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 2196 by Buckingham, was considered during a public hearing by the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee on May 10.