

Committee on Community Affairs

CS/CS/HB 7013 — Special Districts

by State Affairs Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; and Rep. Persons-Mulicka (CS/SB 1058 by Community Affairs Committee and Senator Hutson)

The bill revises numerous provisions relating to special districts. A “special district” is a unit of local government created for a particular purpose, with jurisdiction to operate within a limited geographic boundary. Specifically the bill makes changes by:

- Creating a 12-year consecutive term limit for elected members of governing bodies of most types of independent special districts;
- Providing that boundaries of independent special districts may only be changed by an act of the Legislature, with an exception;
- Repealing provisions that allow special districts to convert to a municipality without legislative approval;
- Adding additional criteria for declaring a special district inactive;
- Revising notice and procedures for proposed declaration of inactive status;
- Authorizing districts that have been declared inactive to expend funds in certain instances;
- Requiring all special districts to adopt goals and objectives, as well as performance measures and standards to determine if those goals and objectives are being achieved;
- Requiring independent special fire control districts to report certain information to the Division of the State Fire Marshal;
- Reducing the maximum ad valorem millage rate that may be levied by a mosquito control district from 10 mills to one mill, with one exception;
- Requiring mosquito control districts to meet certain conditions required to participate in state programs; and
- Prohibiting the creation of new safe neighborhood improvement districts and requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a performance review of existing safe neighborhood improvement districts.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2024.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 112-1