

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5543

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning a reexamination of the classification of land in flood control districts.

Sponsors: Senators Padden and Baumgartner.

Senate Committee on Local Government
House Committee on Local Government

Background: Flood control districts provide flood control and drainage services and facilities. A flood control district's board of directors may, with the written consent of the county legislative authority of the county within which the major portion of the district is situated, and on petition signed by landowners representing 25 percent of the acreage of the lands in the district, appoint a board of three appraisers to determine the ratio of benefits the lands in the district receive with respect to each other from the district.

To determine the ratios of benefits, the board of appraisers must divide the lands within the district into classes. The board of appraisers has discretion to set the number of classes to fairly represent the manifest degrees of benefits, including benefits from better sanitation, easier accessibility, promotion of land development, minimization of flood damages, and flood protection. Land receiving the most benefit is placed in Class No. 1.

The board of appraisers must determine the percentage of benefits the lands in each class has with respect to the lands in Class No. 1. Those lands falling in Class No. 1 have the ratio or percentage of one hundred. Assessments are based on the relative ratios of benefits arising from a land's location in its class.

Summary: The petition to appoint a board of appraisers may also be signed by landowners representing 25 percent of the value of the assessments of the district.

When there is any subdivision, lot-line adjustment, or other change in the land use characteristics of any tract of land in the district, the board of directors may, with the written consent of the county legislative authority of the county within which the major portion of the district is situated, and without a landowner petition or formation of a board of appraisers, reconsider and/or reaffirm the classification and relative percentages assigned to each tract. The board must conduct any reexamination in the same manner used to make the determination originally. Reexamination has no legal effect on any assessment regularly

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levied before the order of appraisal by the reexamining board of directors and may not occur more than once per calendar year.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	97	0

Effective: July 23, 2017