

A NONSUBSTANTIVE REVISION  
OF LOCAL LAWS RELATING TO  
SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Submitted to the 78th Legislature  
as part of the  
Texas Legislative Council's  
Statutory Revision Program

Austin, Texas

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## FOREWORD

The Texas Legislative Council is required by Section 323.007, Government Code, to carry out a complete nonsubstantive revision of the Texas statutes. The process involves reclassifying and rearranging the statutes in a more logical order, eliminating repealed, invalid, duplicative, and other ineffective provisions while employing a format and numbering system that will accommodate future expansion of the law, and improving the draftsmanship of the statutes as practicable. The revision is intended to further the legislature's stated purpose of making the statutes "more accessible, understandable, and usable" without altering the sense, meaning, or effect of the law.

Under the new classification scheme adopted by the Texas Legislative Council, the statutes will eventually consist of 27 codes, each governing a different subject matter. To date, the council has produced and the legislature has enacted the Agriculture Code, Alcoholic Beverage Code, Business & Commerce Code, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Education Code, Election Code (a substantive revision), Finance Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Insurance Code, Labor Code, Local Government Code, Natural Resources Code, Occupations Code, Parks and Wildlife Code, Property Code, Tax Code (Title 1 of which was a substantive revision), Transportation Code, Utilities Code, and Water Code. The council's staff also assisted the state bar in the Business Organizations Code, Penal Code, and Family Code projects, which were substantive revisions, and revised miscellaneous criminal procedure provisions as Title 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

This revision of local laws governing special districts is divided into titles by broad subject matter, subtitles by type of special district, chapters governing individual districts, subchapters for organization, and sections for distinct provisions of law. Sections are numbered decimally, with the number to the left of the decimal the same as the number of the chapter in which the section is contained. Because the code concerns a great number of individual special districts, the code is organized to provide a unique chapter number for each district whose governing laws have been revised. Gaps have been left in chapter and section numbering to accommodate later expansions of the law.

This revisor's report reflects the enactment of Chapter 1277, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, the Texas Legislative Council staff's revision of local laws governing various kinds of special districts in this state so as to establish the structure of the code, allowing for expansion by later revisions of local laws and allowing for new special district local laws to be enacted directly into the appropriate subtitles as new chapters. The revisor's report states the Revised Law, which is the text of the new law, and then provides the Source Law, which is the text of the former law from which the new law was derived. If further explanation of either the revised law or the source law is required, a Revisor's Note is included after the source law. All substance of the source law is revised in the revised law or the reason for its omission is explained in a revisor's note.

Note that this revision will not take effect until April 1, 2005, to provide all affected persons a complete legislative cycle to review the revision more closely.

Because of the extensive reorganization of many statutes, and even provisions within a statute, it may be helpful to refer to the source law for a given chapter as a whole, so that it may be read in its former context, and to refer to the disposition table, which shows where the former statutes, as revised, appear in this code. The disposition table is printed as Appendix C to the revisor's report.

The revision required conforming amendments to several statutes. These amendments, also enacted into law by Chapter 1277, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, are printed in Appendix A to the revisor's report. Appendix A also includes a section listing the laws repealed effective April 1, 2005, and a section stating the legislature's intent that the code be a nonsubstantive revision.

In reviewing this revisor's report, the reader should keep in mind the following:

(1) Except as otherwise provided, Chapter 311, Government Code (Code Construction Act), applies to the code. That chapter sets out certain principles of statutory construction applicable to new codes and also provides some definitions. The chapter is printed as Appendix B to this report.

(2) The proposed code is written in modern American English. Where possible, the present tense is used, the active voice is used in preference to the passive voice, and the singular is used in preference to the plural.

(3) This is a nonsubstantive revision. The Texas Legislative Council staff's authority does not include improving the substance of the source law. The sole purpose of the revision is to compile all the relevant law, arrange it in a logical fashion, and rewrite it without altering its sense, meaning, or legal effect. If a particular source law statute is ambiguous and the ambiguity cannot be resolved without a potential substantive effect, the ambiguity is preserved.

This revision project is under the direction of Jeffrey J. Thorne, Legislative Counsel, of the Texas Legislative Council's legal division staff. Questions may be directed to Mr. Thorne at P.O. Box 12128, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2128, or by telephone at (512) 463-1155.