



CITY OF HOUSTON

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April 5, 2023

Honorable DeWayne Burns
Chairman, House Land and Resource Management Committee
Room E2.604
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

RE: House Bill 1204 relating to the authority of a municipality to remove territory from an emergency services district following annexation

Dear Chairman Burns:

On behalf of the City of Houston, I write in opposition to House Bill 1204 and ask that written testimony be included in the formal legislative record for HB 1204. The City and I thank the committee and Chairman for the opportunity to comment regarding this proposed legislation.

HB 1204 would allow an Emergency Services District (ESD) to object to the removal of any of its territory through annexation by a municipality if the removal would diminish its effectiveness through reduced service levels, a reduction in revenue or require an increase in the tax burden on the territory that is left.

Municipalities are required to provide emergency services in areas it annexes. Cities charge taxes in these areas for these services and if the territory annexed remains in the ESD, that would equate to double taxation for the same services.

It also adds to the confusion about what entities service what areas. Emergency personnel have a clear understanding that areas within the city are serviced by the city where they are able to reach them. This change would confuse both emergency personnel and residents as to who should provide these services.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you through the duration of this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Nicole Smothers

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