

CHAPTER 967

S.B. No. 1484

An Act relating to the dissolution of the Refugio County Memorial Hospital District; adding Section 26 to Chapter 6, Acts of the 65th Legislature, Regular Session, 1977.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 6, Acts of the 65th Legislature, Regular Session, 1977, is amended by adding Section 26 to read as follows:

“Section 26. (a) The district may be dissolved as provided by this section.

“(b) The land, buildings, improvements, and equipment that are part of the hospital or hospital system owned by the district shall be transferred to Refugio County. Any debts and bond obligations of the district shall be assumed by Refugio County. The Commissioners Court of Refugio County shall provide for establishing and administering a hospital system by purchase, gift, construction, acquisition, repair, or renovation of buildings and equipment and for equipping the hospital system.

“(c) The district may not be dissolved nor may facilities or assets of the district be acquired by Refugio County unless and until the dissolution and transfer of assets and facilities are approved

by vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the district voting on the question. The question shall be submitted to voters of the district on presentation of a petition calling for submission of the question, signed by a number of qualified voters of the district equal to not less than 15 percent of the number of qualified voters in the district. A voter signing the petition must write the date of his signing next to his name, and the required number of names must be collected and the petition must be filed within 45 days of the date of the first signature. The directors shall order the question submitted to the voters at the first election of directors of the district held more than 60 days after the date on which the petition is presented. Notice of the election shall include notice that the question on the dissolution of the district and the transfer of hospital facilities to and the assumption of debts and bond obligations by Refugio County will be submitted at the election.

“(d) Beneath the names of the candidates for director of the district, the ballots used at the election shall provide for voting for or against the following proposition: ‘The dissolution of the Refugio County Memorial Hospital District and the transfer of the existing hospital facilities to and the assumption of the debts and bond obligations by Refugio County.’”

“(e) Not later than the 10th day after the date on which the election is held, the directors of the district shall convene and canvass the returns of the election, and if a majority of the qualified voters voting in the election favors the proposition, the board shall find that the proposition was approved and shall declare the hospital district dissolved. If a majority of the qualified voters voting in the election does not favor the proposition, the board shall find that the proposition was not approved and shall declare that the district will continue to operate.

“(f) The failure of the proposition does not prevent the calling and holding of subsequent elections for the same purpose, but an election may not be held within 48 months after the anniversary of the date of any preceding election held for the same purpose.”

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on May 22, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 0; passed the House on May 24, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 1, one present not voting.

Filed: June 16, 1985, without signature.

Effective: Immediately