

1-1 By: Murphy, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 440
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 3, 2019;
1-3 April 4, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Property Tax; April 29, 2019, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 29, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to general obligation bonds issued by political
1-16 subdivisions.

1-17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-18 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 45, Education Code, is
1-19 amended by adding Section 45.1105 to read as follows:

1-20 Sec. 45.1105. USE OF UNSPENT GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND
1-21 PROCEEDS. (a) A school district may use the unspent proceeds of
1-22 issued general obligation bonds only:

1-23 (1) for the specific purposes for which the bonds were
1-24 authorized;

1-25 (2) to retire the bonds; or

1-26 (3) for a purpose other than the specific purposes for
1-27 which the bonds were authorized if:

1-28 (A) the specific purposes are accomplished or
1-29 abandoned; and

1-30 (B) the board of trustees at a public meeting
1-31 held only for the purpose of considering the use of the unspent bond
1-32 proceeds approves in separate votes the use of the proceeds for:

1-33 (i) a purpose other than to retire the
1-34 bonds; and

1-35 (ii) the purpose specified at the time the
1-36 vote is taken.

1-37 (b) In addition to other requirements of law, notice of a
1-38 public meeting held under this section must include a statement
1-39 that the board of trustees will consider the use of unspent bond
1-40 proceeds for a purpose other than the specific purposes for which
1-41 the bonds were authorized.

1-42 (c) A public meeting held under this section must provide
1-43 the public an opportunity to address the board of trustees on the
1-44 question of using the unspent bond proceeds for a purpose other than
1-45 the specific purposes for which the bonds were authorized.

1-46 SECTION 2. Section 4.003(f), Election Code, is amended to
1-47 read as follows:

1-48 (f) A debt obligation election order required under Section
1-49 3.009 shall be posted:

1-50 (1) on election day and during early voting by
1-51 personal appearance, in a prominent location at each polling place;

1-52 (2) not later than the 21st day before the election, in
1-53 three public places in the boundaries of the political subdivision
1-54 holding the election; and

1-55 (3) during the 21 days before the election, on the
1-56 political subdivision's Internet website, prominently and together
1-57 with the notice of the election, ~~and~~ the contents of the
1-58 proposition, and any sample ballot prepared for the election, if
1-59 the political subdivision maintains an Internet website.

1-60 SECTION 3. Subtitle C, Title 9, Government Code, is amended
1-61 by adding Chapter 1253 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1253. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS ISSUED BY POLITICAL
SUBDIVISIONS

Sec. 1253.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "political subdivision" means a county, municipality, school district, junior college district, other special district, or other subdivision of state government.

Sec. 1253.002. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS. (a) In this section, "personal property" has the meaning assigned by Section 1.04, Tax Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a political subdivision may not issue general obligation bonds to purchase, improve, or construct an improvement to real property or to purchase personal property if the weighted average maturity of the issue of bonds to finance the improvement or personal property exceeds 120 percent of the reasonably expected weighted average economic life of the improvement or personal property financed with the issue of bonds.

Sec. 1253.003. USE OF UNSPENT GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROCEEDS. (a) A political subdivision other than a school district may use the unspent proceeds of issued general obligation bonds only:

(1) for the specific purposes for which the bonds were authorized;

(2) to retire the bonds; or

(3) for a purpose other than the specific purposes for which the bonds were authorized if:

(A) the specific purposes are accomplished or abandoned; and

(B) a majority of the votes cast in an election held in the political subdivision approve the use of the proceeds for the proposed purpose.

(b) The election order and the notice of election for an election described by Subsection (a)(3)(B) must state the proposed purpose for which the bond proceeds are to be used.

(c) A political subdivision must hold an election described by Subsection (a)(3)(B) in the same manner as an election to issue bonds in the political subdivision.

SECTION 4. Chapter 1332, Government Code, is repealed.

SECTION 5. Section 1253.002, Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to a general obligation bond authorized to be issued at an election held on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

* * * * *