(In the Senate - Received from the House April 26, 2023; April 27, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government; May 3, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 1; May 3, 2023, sent to printer.) 1-1 1-2 1-3 1-4

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

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1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Bettencourt	Χ			
1-9	Springer	Χ			
1-10	Eckhardt		X		
1-11	Gutierrez	Χ			
1-12	Hall	X			
1-13	Nichols			X	
1-14	Parker	X			
1-15	Paxton	Χ			
1-16	West	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1-18 AN ACT

> relating to certain public facilities used to provide affordable housing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 303.021, Local Government Code, amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) A corporation or a sponsor may finance, own, or operate a multifamily residential development only if:

(1) the corporation or sponsor complies with all applicable provisions of this chapter; and
(2) the development is located:

(A) inside the area of operation of the sponsor,

if the sponsor is a housing authority; or

(B) if the sponsor is not a housing authority, inside the boundaries of the sponsor, without regard to whether the sponsor is authorized to own property or provide services outside the boundaries of the sponsor.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 303, Local Government

Code, is amended by adding Section 303.0415 to read as follows:

Sec. 303.0415. APPLICABILITY OF LAWS RELATING TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST. A member of the board of a corporation or a member of the governing body of a sponsor of a corporation is subject to the same restrictions as a local public official under Chapter 171.

SECTION 3. The heading to Section 303.042, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 303.042. TAXATION; EXEMPTION.

SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 303, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 303.0421, and a heading is added to that section to read as follows:

303.0421. MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS OWNED BY PUBLIC FACILITY CORPORATIONS.

SECTION 5. Section 303.0421, Local Government Code, added by this Act, is amended by adding Subsections (a), (c), (d), (f-1), (f-2), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(a) This section applies to a multifamily residential development that is owned by a corporation created under this chapter, except that this section does not apply to a multifamily

residential development that:
(1) has at least 20 percent of its residential units reserved for public housing units;

1-58 (2) participates the Rental Assistance Demonstration program administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; 1-60 1-61

(3) receives financial assistance administered under

Chapter 1372, Government Code, or rece from another type of tax-exempt bond; or or receives financial assistance 2-1 2-2

receives financial assistance administered under

Subchapter DD, Chapter 2306, Government Code.

(c) A multifamily residential development that is owned by a corporation created under this chapter by a housing authority and to which Subsection (a) applies must hold a public hearing, at a the authority's governing body, to approve the development.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), an occupied multifamily residential development that is acquired by a corporation and to which Subsection (a) applies is eligible for an exemption under Section 303.042(c) for:

(1) the one-year period following the date of the acquisition, regardless of whether the development complies with the requirements of Subsection (b); and

(2) a year following the year described by Subdivision if the development comes into compliance with the requirements of Subsection (b) not later than the first anniversary of the date of the acquisition.

(f-1) Subsection (f) does not apply to taxes imposed by conservation and reclamation district created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, that provides water, sewer, or drainage services to a public facility

(1) the district has outstanding bond indebtedness;

and

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- (2) when the facility is combined with other existing or proposed public facilities in the district, the application of Subsection (f) would result in the aggregate loss of at least 10 percent of the total assessed value of all property located in the district.
- Subsection (f-1) does not apply if the corporation has entered into a written agreement with the district to make a payment to the district in lieu of taxation, in the amount specified in the agreement.

An exemption under Section 303.042(c) for a multifamily (g) residential development to which Subsection (a) applies expires:

development that is acquired by a corporation, on the 10th anniversary of the date of the acquisition by the corporation; and on the 10th

(2) for a multifamily residential development not described by Subdivision (1), on the 12th anniversary of the date the development receives, from the corporation or the corporation's sponsor, the final approval under this chapter that is necessary to obtain the exemption.

(h) This subsection and Subsection (f) expire December 31,

SECTION 6. Section 303.042(c), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Subject to Section 303.0421(g), a [A] corporation is engaged exclusively in performance of charitable functions and is exempt from taxation by this state or a municipality or other political subdivision of this state. Bonds issued by a corporation under this chapter, a transfer of the bonds, interest on the bonds, and a profit from the sale or exchange of the bonds are exempt from taxation by this state or a municipality or other political subdivision of this state.

SECTION 7. Sections 303.042(d), (e), and (f), Local Government Code, are transferred to Section 303.0421, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, redesignated as Sections 303.0421(b), (e), and (f), Local Government Code, and amended to read as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding Section 303.042(c) and subject to Subsections (c) and (d) of this section, an $\frac{(d) - An}{section 303.042(c)}$ [this section] for a multifamily residential development to which Subsection (a) applies is available [which is owned by a public facility corporation created by a house authority under this chapter and which does not have at least

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percent of its units reserved for public housing units,
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    only if:
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- (1) the <u>requirements under Section 303.0425 are met</u> [housing authority holds a public hearing, at a regular meeting of the authority's governing body, to approve the development]; [and]
 - (2) at least:
- (A) 12 percent of the units in the multifamily residential development are reserved for occupancy:
- (i) as very low income housing units, as defined under Section 303.0425; or
- (ii) by participants in the housing choice

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- (B) 12 percent of the units in the multifamily residential development are reserved for occupancy as lower income
- housing units, as defined under Section 303.0425; and

 (C) 12 [50] percent of the units in the multifamily residential development are reserved for occupancy as moderate income housing units, as defined under Section 303.0425; [by individuals and families earning less than 80 percent of the area median family income
- (3) the corporation delivers to the presiding officer of the governing body of each taxing unit in which the development is to be located written notice of the development, at least 30 days before the date:
- (A) the corporation takes action to approve a new multifamily residential development or the acquisition of an occupied multifamily residential development; and
 - (B) of any public hearing required to be held

under this section;

- (4) the multifamily residential development approved by the governing body of the municipality, if any, development is the county, and the school district in which the development is located;
- (5) for an occupied multifamily residential development that is acquired by a corporation and not otherwise subject to a land use restriction agreement under Section 2306.185, Government Code:
- (A) not less than 15 percent of the total gross the existing development, as shown in the settlement t, is expended on rehabilitating, renovating, <u>cos</u>t of is expended on rehabilitating, ng, or repairing the development, statement, reconstructing, with initial expenditures and construction activities:
- later than the first (i) beginning not
- anniversary of the date of the acquisition; and

 (ii) finishing not later than the third anniversary of the date of the acquisition; or
- (B) at least 25 percent of the units are reserved as lower income housing units, as defined under Section 303.0425, and the development is approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the development is located or, if the development is not located in a municipality, the county in which the development is located; and
 - (6) before final approval of the development:
- (A) the corporation or corporation's sponsor conducts, or obtains from a professional entity that has experience underwriting affordable multifamily residential developments and does not have financial interests in the applicable development, public facility user, or developer, an underwriting assessment of the proposed development to determine the appropriate category of
- income-restricted units to require at the development; and
 (B) based on the assessment conducted Paragraph (A) the corporation makes a good faith determination that the total annual amount of rent reduction on the income-restricted units provided at the development will be not less than 60 percent of the estimated amount of the annual ad valorem taxes that would be imposed on the property without an exemption under Section 303.042(c), for:
- 3-67 (i) the first three years after the rent 3-68 stabilization period, for newly constructed developments; and 3-69

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(ii) the second, third, and fourth years after the date of acquisition by the corporation, for developments 4-1 4-2 occupied at the time of acquisition. 4-3

(e) For the purposes of Subsection (a) (d), a "public housing unit" is a residential [dwelling] unit for which the landlord receives a public housing operating subsidy. It does not include a unit for which payments are made to the landlord under the federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

(f) Notwithstanding Sections 303.042(a) and (b) and subject to Subsection (f-1) [Subsections (a) and (b)], during the period [of time] that a corporation owns a particular public facility that

is a multifamily residential development:

 $[\tau]$ a leasehold or other possessory interest in (1)the real property of the public facility granted by the corporation shall be treated in the same manner as a leasehold or other possessory interest in real property granted by an authority under Section 379B.011(b); and

person the <u>ma</u>terials (2) used bу а granted possessory interest described by Subdivision (1) to improve the real property of the public facility shall be exempt from all sales and use taxes because the materials are for the benefit of the corporation.

SECTION 8. Subchapter B, Chapter 303, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 303.0425 and 303.0426 to read as follows:

303.0425. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BENEFICIAL TAX Sec TREATMENT RELATING TO CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES. (a) In this section:

"Department" means the Texas Department of Housing (1)

and Community Affairs.
(2) "Developer" means a private entity that constructs development, including the rehabilitation, renovation, reconstruction, or repair of a development.

"Housing choice voucher program" means the housing

unit reserved for occupancy by an individual or family earning not more than 60 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

"Moderate income housing unit" means a residential unit reserved for occupancy by an individual or family earning not more than 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) "Public facility user" means a public-private

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partnership entity or a developer or other private entity that has an ownership interest or a leasehold or other possessory interest in a public facility that is a multifamily residential development.

(7) "Very low income housing unit" means a residential

unit reserved for occupancy by an individual or family earning not more than 50 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and <u> Urban Development.</u>

(b) If a majority of the members of the board corporation are not elected officials, the development must be approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the development is located or, if the development is not located in a

municipality, the county in which the development is located.

(c) The percentage of very low, lower, and moderate income housing units reserved in each category of units in the development, based on the number of bedrooms per unit, must be the same as the percentage of each category of housing units reserved in the development as a whole.

The monthly rent charged per unit may not exceed:

(1) for a very low income housing unit, 30 percent of 50 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban 5-1 5-2

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Development; (2) for a lower income housing unit, 30 percent of 60 the area median income, adjusted for family size, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; or

(3) for a moderate income housing unit, 30 percent of 80 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size, as the United States Department of Housing and Urban

5-9 Development.

(e) In calculating the income of an individual or family for very low, lower, or moderate income housing unit, the public facility user must use the definition of annual income described in C.F.R. Section 5.609, as implemented by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. If the income of a tenant exceeds an applicable limit at the time of the renewal of a lease agreement for a residential unit, the provisions of Section 42(g)(2)(D), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, apply in determining whether the unit may still qualify as a very low, lower, or moderate income housing unit.

- The public facility user may not:
 (1) refuse to rent a residential unit to an individual or family because the individual or family participates in the housing choice voucher program; or
- (2) use a financial or minimum income standard that requires an individual or family participating in the housing choice voucher program to have a monthly income of more than 250 percent of the individual's or family's share of the total monthly rent payable for a unit.
- (f-1) A public facility user may require an individual or family participating in the housing choice voucher program to pay the difference between the monthly rent for the applicable unit and the amount of the monthly voucher if the amount of the voucher is less than the rent.
- (g) A corporation that owns or leases to a public facility user a public facility used as a multifamily residential development shall publish on its Internet website information about the development's:
- (1) compliance with the requirements of this section; and
- policies regarding tenant participation in the housing choice voucher program.

The public facility user shall: (h)

- (1) affirmatively market available residential units directly to individuals and families participating in the housing choice voucher program; and
- (2) notify local housing authorities multifamily residential development's acceptance of tenants in the housing choice voucher program.
- (i) The department shall conduct an annual audit of each public facility user of a multifamily residential development claiming an exemption under Section 303.042(c) and to which Section 303.0421 applies, to:

(1) determine whether the public facility user is in compliance with this section and Section 303.0421; and

(2) identify the difference in the rent charged for income-restricted residential units and the estimated maximum market rents that could be charged for those units without the rent or income restrictions.

(i-1) An independent auditor or compliance expert may not prepare an audit under Subsection (i) for more than three consecutive years for the same public facility user. After the third consecutive audit, the independent auditor or compliance expert may prepare an audit only after the second anniversary of the preparation of the third consecutive audit.

(j) The department shall complete and publish a report regarding the findings of an audit conducted under Subsection (i). The report must:

(1) be made available on the department's Internet website;

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- be issued to a public facility user that has an 6-1 interest in a development that is the subject of an audit; and 6-2
 - (3) describe in detail the nature of any failure
 - comply with the requirements in this section and Section 303.0421.
 - reporting (j**-**1) The department shall adopt forms and
- standards for the auditing process.

 (k) The initial audit report required by Subsection (j) 6-7 than June 1 of the year following the first 6-8 not anniversary of: 6-9
 - dat<u>e</u> of acquisition the <u>occupied</u> (1) for <u>a</u>n residential development that is acquired by multifamily corporation; or
 - (2) the date a new multifamily residential development
 - first becomes occupied by one or more tenants.

 (k-1) Subsequent audit reports following the issuance of the initial audit report under Subsection (k) are due not later than June 1 of each year.
 - (1) Not later than the 60th day after the date of receipt of department's audit report under Subsection (j)(2), a public facility user shall provide a copy of the report to the comptroller, the appraisal district containing the development that is the subject of the report, the corporation, the governing body of the corporation's sponsor, and, if the corporation's sponsor is a housing authority, the elected officials who appointed the housing
 - authority's governing board.
 (1-1) Not later than June 1 of each year for which an audit is required under Subsection (i), a public facility user to which Section 303.0421 applies shall pay to the department a fee of \$40 per unit contained in the development, as determined by the audit, to reimburse the department for expenses related to the audit.
 (1-2) An exemption under Section 303.042(c) does not apply
 - for a tax year in which a multifamily residential development that is owned by a public facility corporation created under this chapter is determined by an audit conducted under Subsection (i) to not be in compliance with the requirements of this section and Section 303.0421.
 - (1-3) An audit conducted under Subsection (i) is subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, except that information containing tenant names, unit numbers, or other tenant identifying information may be redacted.
 - (m) Each lease agreement for residential unit in multifamily residential development subject to this section must provide that:
 - (1) the landlord may not retaliate against the tenant or the tenant's guests by taking an action because the tenant established, attempted to establish, or participated in a tenant (1) organization;
 - the landlord may only choose to not renew the lease if the tenant:
 - (A) is in material noncompliance with the lease, including nonpayment of rent;
 - (B) committed one or more substantial violations
- 6-53 of the lease; 6-54 (C) failed to provide required information on the income, composition, or eligibility of the tenant's household; or

 (D) committed repeated minor violations of the 6-55 6-56
- 6-57 lease that: 6-58
 - disrupt the livability of the property; (ii) adversely affect the health and safety of any person or the right to quiet enjoyment of the leased premises and related development facilities;
 - (iii) interfere with the management of the
- 6-63 development; or

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- (iv) have an adverse financial effect on 6-64 the development, including the failure of the tenant to pay rent in 6-65 6-66 a timely manner; and
- 6-67 (3) to not renew the lease, the landlord must serve a written notice of proposed nonrenewal on the tenant not later than 6-68 the 30th day before the effective date of nonrenewal. 6-69

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- tenant may not waive the protections provided by Subsection (m).
- Ιf audit report submitted under (\circ) Subsection indicates noncompliance with this section, a public facility user:

(1)must be given:

(A) written notice from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs or appropriate appraisal district that:

is provided not later than the 45th day (i) after the date a report has been submitted under Subsection (j); specifies for (ii) the reasons

noncompliance;

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(iii) contains at least one option

corrective action to resolve the noncompliance; and

(iv) informs the public facility user that failure to resolve the noncompliance will result in the loss of an exemption under Section 303.042(c);

(B) 60 days after the date notice is received under this subdivision, to resolve the matter that is the subject of the notice; and

if a matter that is the subject of a notice provided under this subdivision is not resolved to the satisfaction of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the appropriate appraisal district during the period provided by Paragraph (B), a second notice that informs the public facility user of the loss of the exemption under Section 303.042(c) due to noncompliance with this section;

(2) is considered to be in compliance with this notice under Subdivision (1)(A) is not provided as section specified by Subparagraph (i) of that paragraph; and
(3) may appeal a determination of noncompliance to a

district court in the county in which the applicable development is located.

(p) Requirements under this subchapter relating to the reservation of income-restricted residential units or income restrictions applicable to tenants of a multifamily residential income development subject to this subchapter must be documented in a land use restriction agreement or a similar restrictive instrument that:

(1) ensures that the applicable restrictions are in effect for not less than 10 years; and

(2) is recorded in the real property records of the

county in which the development is located.

(q) An agreement or instrument recorded under Subsection (p) may be terminated if the development that is the subject of the agreement or instrument:

(1) is the subject of a foreclosure sale; or

inclinible for an exemption unit

becomes ineligible for an exemption under Section for a reason other than the failure to comply with 303.042(c) restrictions recorded in the agreement or instrument.

Sec. 303.0426. STUDY OF TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR

Sec. 303.0426. STUDY OF TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS OWNED BY PUBLIC FACILITY CORPORATIONS. In this section, "board" means the Legislative Budget Board.

(b) The board shall conduct a study that assesses the long-term effects on the state's funding and revenue, including funding for public education, of ad valorem tax exemptions and sales and use tax exemptions for multifamily housing developments under Sections 303.042(c) and 303.0421(f).

(c) Not later than December 10, 2024, the board shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives a report on the results of the study. report must include an estimate of:

(1) the funding or revenue that the state has lost as a result of the exemptions; and

(2) the potential increase in funding or revenue that

would result from the repeal of the exemptions.
(d) The board may delegate any authority granted to the board under this section that the board determines is necessary to conduct the study under this section.

(e) This section expires January 1, 2025.

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SECTION 9. Sections 392.005(c) and (d), Local Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) An exemption under this section for a multifamily residential development which is owned by [(i) a public facility corporation created by a housing authority under Chapter 303, (ii)] a housing development corporation[,] or [(iii)] a similar entity created by a housing authority, other than a public facility corporation created by a housing authority under Chapter 303, and which does not have at least 20 percent of its residential units reserved for public housing units, applies only if:

(1) the authority holds a public hearing, at a regular meeting of the authority's governing body, to approve the

development; and

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(2) at least<u>:</u>

(A) 12 percent of the units in the multifamily residential development are reserved for occupancy:

(i) as very low income housing units, as

defined under Section 303.0425; or

(ii) by participants in the housing choice

voucher program;

(B) 12 percent of the units in the multifamily residential development are reserved for occupancy as lower income housing units, as defined under Section 303.0425; and

(d) For the purposes of Subsection (c), a "public housing unit" is a <u>residential</u> [dwelling] unit for which the owner receives a public housing operating subsidy. It does not include a unit for which payments are made to the landlord under the federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

SECTION 10. (a) Subject to Subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this section, Sections 303.0421 and 303.0425, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a tax imposed for a tax year beginning on or after the effective date of this Act.

(b) Subject to Subsections (c) and (d) of this section, Sections 303.0421 and 303.0425, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a multifamily residential development that is approved on or after the effective date of this Act by a public facility corporation or the sponsor of a public facility corporation, in accordance with Chapter 303, Local Government Code. A multifamily residential development that was approved by a public facility corporation or the sponsor of a public facility corporation before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the development was approved by the corporation or sponsor, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(c) Subject to Subsection (d) of this section, Section 303.0421(d), Local Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an occupied multifamily residential development that is acquired by a public facility corporation on or after the effective date of this Act. An occupied multifamily residential development that is acquired by a public facility corporation before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the development was acquired by the public facility corporation, and the former law is continued in effect for that

purpose.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section:

(1) Sections 303.0425(g), (i), (j), (k), (l), (l-1), and (l-2), Local Government Code, as added by this Act, apply to all multifamily residential developments owned by a public facility corporation; and

(2) the initial audit report required to be submitted under Section 303.0425(j), Local Government Code, as added by this Act, for a multifamily residential development that was approved or acquired by a public facility corporation before the effective date of this Act must be submitted by the later of:

H.B. No. 2071 the date established by Section 303.0425(k),

(A) the date established by Section 30 Local Government Code, as added by this Act; or

(B) June 1, 2024.

(e) Section 303.0421(h), Local Government Code, as added by this Act, does not affect a tax exemption available to a multifamily residential development under Section 303.0421(f), Local Government Code, as amended by this Act, immediately before December 31, 2025. A tax exemption available to a multifamily residential development under Section 303.0421(f), Local Government Code, immediately before that date is covered by the law in effect when the development qualified for the exemption, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 11. Not later than January 1, 2024, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs shall adopt rules necessary to implement Section 303.0425(i), Local Government Code,

as added by this Act.

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SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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