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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 343 (Substitute S-1 as passed by the Senate)

Sponsor: Senator Jim Barcia

Committee: Commerce and Labor

Date Completed: 4-27-05

RATIONALE

Tax increment financing (TIF) and similar economic development tools are designed to "capture" the tax revenue from the incremental growth in property value within a district, for use in financing a variety of public improvements in that area. These programs generally have been used in commercial and industrial areas to foster economic development in a community. Some contend that thriving neighborhoods also are essential to creating and maintaining economic vitality in cities, and suggest that cities should be authorized to adopt TIF plans in residential areas.

CONTENT

The bill would create the "Neighborhood Improvement Authority Act" to do all of the following:

- Authorize a city to create a neighborhood improvement authority under certain circumstances, by passing a resolution after providing notice and holding a public hearing.
- Provide for the supervision and control of an authority by a board that included the city's chief executive officer and five to nine members appointed by the chief executive, subject to the approval of the city's governing body.
- Specify an authority board's powers.
- Provide for the financing of authority activities, including borrowing money and issuing bonds.
- Allow an authority to prepare and submit to the city's governing body a tax increment financing plan, which would have to include a development

plan for the authority's development area.

- Allow a city and an authority to sell bonds to finance a TIF plan's development program.
- Specify requirements for a development plan, including providing assistance to people displaced by the plan.
- Require that a person to be relocated be given at least 90 days' written notice to vacate, unless modified by a court order.
- Specify requirements for an authority's budget approval process.
- Require that a city dissolve an authority after the authority completed its purpose; and provide that the authority's property and assets remaining after the satisfaction of its obligations would belong to the city.
- Authorize the State Tax Commission to institute proceedings to enforce the proposed Act and to promulgate rules for its administration.

Neighborhood Improvement Authority

A city's governing body could declare its intention to create and provide for the operation of a neighborhood improvement authority if it determined that doing so was necessary for the public's best interests to halt property value deterioration and increase property tax valuation where possible in a residential district, eliminate the causes of that deterioration, and promote residential growth and economic growth. A city could establish multiple

authorities, but a parcel of property could not be included in more than one. ("Residential district" would mean an area of a municipality where 75% or more of the area is zoned for and occupied by residential housing.)

In the resolution of intent, the governing body would have to set a date for a public hearing on the adoption of an ordinance that proposed creating an authority and designated the boundaries of a development area. The bill specifies notice requirements for a public hearing, including published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, mailed notice to property taxpayers of record in the proposed development area, and mailed notice to the governing body of each taxing jurisdiction levying taxes that would be subject to capture if the authority were established and a tax increment financing plan were approved.

If the city's governing body intended to proceed, at least 60 days after the hearing it would have to adopt an ordinance establishing the authority and designating the boundaries of the development area within which the authority would exercise its powers. The governing body could alter or amend the development area's boundaries to include or exclude parcels of land in the same manner as adoption of the ordinance creating an authority.

If the development area were part of an area annexed to or consolidated with another city, the authority managing the development area would become an authority of the annexing or consolidated city.

A residential district or development area under the proposed Act could not include an area that was part of a residential district or a development area under the Historical Neighborhood Tax Increment Finance Authority Act.

Authority Board

An authority would be under the supervision and control of a board that consisted of the city's chief executive officer (mayor or city manager) or his or her designee and not less than five or more than nine members determined by the city's governing body. Members would be appointed by the city's

chief executive officer, subject to approval by the city's governing body.

People having an ownership or business interest in property located in the development area would have to make up at least a majority of the board members, and at least one member would have to be a resident of the development area or live within one-half of a mile of it. Board members would serve staggered terms and vacancies would be filled by appointment of the city's chief executive. Members would serve without compensation but could be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses. The board would have to elect its chairperson. The board would be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

The board could employ a director and fix his or her compensation, subject to approval of the city's governing body. The director would have to attend board meetings and give the board and the city's governing body a regular report on the authority's activities and financial condition. The board also could employ and fix the compensation of a treasurer, a secretary, and other personnel whom it considered necessary. An authority's employees would be eligible to participate in municipal retirement and insurance programs as if they were civil service employees.

Board Powers

An authority board could do any of the following:

- Prepare an analysis of economic changes taking place in the development area.
- Study and analyze the impact of metropolitan growth upon the development area.
- Plan and propose the construction, renovation, repair, remodeling, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or reconstruction of a public facility, an existing building, or a multiple-family dwelling unit for a plan that the board believed aided in the development area's residential and economic growth.
- Develop long-range plans, in cooperation with the city's planning agency, that were designed to halt the deterioration of property values and promote residential and economic growth in the development area and take steps to persuade property owners to implement the plans.

- Implement in the development area any plan of development, including low-income housing, that was necessary to achieve the purposes of the proposed Act.
- Make and enter into contracts to exercise its powers and the performance of its duties.
- Acquire, own, convey, or otherwise dispose of, or lease land and other real or personal property necessary to achieve the purposes of the proposed Act, and to grant or acquire licenses, easements, and options.
- Improve land and construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, restore and preserve, equip, clear, improve, maintain, repair, and operate any public facility, building (including multiple-family dwellings), and any necessary or desirable appurtenances, within the development are for a public or private use.
- Fix, charge, and collect fees, rents, and charges for the use of any facility, building, or property it controlled and pledge the collections for the payment of revenue bonds issued under by the authority.
- Accept from public and private sources, grants and donations of property, labor, or other things of value.
- Acquire and construct public facilities.

("Public facility" would mean housing; a street, plaza, or pedestrian mall, and any improvements to them; park; parking facility; recreational facility; right of way; structure; waterway; bridge; lake; pond; canal; utility line or pipe; or building, including access routes designed and dedicated to public use or used by a public agency.)

A city could acquire private property under Public Act 149 of 1911, which provides for the acquisition of private property for public use or benefit, or under the Uniform Condemnation Procedures Act, for the purposes of transfer to an authority for use in an approved development. The taking, transfer, and use would be considered necessary for public purposes and for the benefit of the public.

Authority Financing

An authority's activities would have to be financed from one or more of the following sources:

- Donations to the authority for the performance of its functions.
- Money borrowed and to be repaid, as specified in the bill.
- Revenue from any property, building, or facility owned, leased, licensed, or operated by the authority or under its control, subject to limitations imposed on the authority by trusts or other agreements.
- Proceeds of a tax increment financing plan established under the bill.
- Proceeds from a special assessment district created as provided by law.
- Money obtained from other sources approved by the city's governing body or otherwise authorized by law for use by the authority or the city to finance a development program.

Except as otherwise provided, the city could not obligate itself, and could not be obligated, to pay any sums from public funds for or on account of the authority's activities, other than money received pursuant to the bill for that purpose.

Borrowing & Bonding

At the request of an authority, a city could borrow money and issue its notes under the Revised Municipal Finance Act in anticipation of collection of the ad valorem tax authorized in the bill.

An authority could borrow money and issue its negotiable revenue bonds under the Revenue Bond Act. The revenue bonds would not be a debt of the city unless the city, by majority vote of its governing body, pledged its full faith and credit to support the bonds. Revenue bonds issued by an authority would never be a debt of the State.

With approval of the city's governing body, an authority could borrow money and issue its revenue bonds or notes to finance all or part of the costs of acquiring or constructing property in connection with either the implementation of a development plan in the development area or the refund of bonds or notes issued under the bill.

An authority could finance any of the following by issuing revenue bonds or notes:

- The cost of buying, acquiring, constructing, improving, enlarging,

extending, or repairing property in connection with a development plan in the development area.

- Any engineering, architectural, legal, accounting, or financial expenses.
- The costs necessary or incidental to borrowing money.
- Interest on the bonds or notes during the period of construction.
- A reserve for payment of principal and interest on the bonds or notes.
- A reserve for operation and maintenance until sufficient revenues had developed.

An authority could secure the bonds and notes by mortgage, assignment, or pledge of the property and any money, revenue, or income received in connection with the property.

Bonds or notes issued under the bill would be exempt from taxes in this State, except for inheritance and transfer taxes, and the interest on the bonds or notes would be tax exempt in this State, even if subject to Federal income tax.

An authority's bonds or notes could be invested in by all public officers, State agencies and political subdivisions, insurance companies, banks, savings and loan associations, investment companies, and fiduciaries and trustees. The bonds or notes also could be deposited with and received by all public officers and agencies and political subdivisions for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds was authorized.

Tax Increment Financing

If an authority determined that doing so was necessary to achieve the purposes of the proposed Act, it could prepare and submit a tax increment financing plan to the city's governing body. The plan would have to include a development plan, a detailed explanation of the TIF procedure, the maximum amount of bonded indebtedness to be incurred, and the duration of the TIF program. The plan would have to include a statement of the estimated impact of the TIF plan on the assessed values of all taxing jurisdictions in which the development area was located, and could provide for the use of part or all of the captured assessed value. The authority or the city could exclude from captured assessed value the growth in property value resulting solely from inflation.

Approval of a TIF plan would have to comply with the bill's notice, hearing, and disclosure provisions for the adoption of a development plan. If the development plan were part of the TIF plan, only one hearing and approval procedure would be required.

Before a public hearing on a TIF plan, the city's governing body would have to provide a reasonable opportunity to the taxing jurisdictions levying taxes subject to capture to meet with the governing body. The authority would have to inform those jurisdictions of the fiscal and economic implications of the plan. The taxing jurisdictions could present their recommendations at the public hearing. The authority could enter into agreements with the taxing jurisdictions and the city's governing body to share a portion of the captured assessed value of the development area. Within 60 days after the public hearing, a taxing jurisdiction's governing body could exempt its taxes from capture by adopting a resolution and filing a copy of it with the city clerk.

Municipal and county treasurers would have to transmit tax increment revenues to the authority. The authority would have to spend the revenue for the development program under the terms of the TIF plan.

Annually, an authority would have to submit to the city's governing body and the State Tax Commission a report on the status of the TIF account, including information regarding sources of revenue, amount and purpose of expenditures, the amount of principal and interest on any outstanding bonded indebtedness, the initial assessed value of the project area that captured assessed value retained by the authority, the amount of public housing created or improved, and the number of jobs created as a result of implementing the plan.

A city, by resolution and subject to voter approval, could authorize, issue, and sell general obligation bonds to finance the TIF plan's development program, and would have to pledge its full faith and credit for the payment of the bonds.

By resolution of the board, an authority could authorize, issue, and sell tax increment bonds to finance the TIF plan's development program. Bonds issued in this manner could be secured by any other

revenue identified as a source of financing for the authority's activities. The full faith and credit of the city could not be pledged to secure these bonds.

Development Plan

If a board decided to finance a project in a development area by the use of revenue bonds or tax increment financing, it would have to prepare a development plan. The development plan would have to include all of the following:

- The designation of the development area's boundaries.
- The location and extent of existing streets and other public facilities within the development area, designating location, character, and the current and proposed extent of public and private land uses.
- A description of existing improvements in the development area to be demolished, repaired, or altered; a description of any repairs and alterations; and an estimate of the time required for completion.
- The location, extent, character, and estimated cost of improvements.
- A statement of the planned construction or stages of construction, and the estimated time of completion of each stage.
- A description of any parts of the development area to be left as open space and the use contemplated for the space.
- A description of any portions of the development area that the authority wanted to sell, donate, exchange, or lease to or from the city and the proposed terms.
- A description of desired zoning changes and changes in streets, street levels, intersections, or utilities.
- An estimate of the cost of development, a statement of the proposed method of financing, and the ability of the authority to arrange the financing.
- Designation of the person or persons to whom development was to be leased, sold, or conveyed and for whose benefit the project was being undertaken.
- The procedures for bidding for the lease, purchase, or conveyance of the development.
- Estimates of the number of people residing in the development area and the number of families and individuals to be

displaced; and a survey of those people to be displaced if occupied residences were designated for acquisition and clearance.

- A plan for establishing priority for the relocation of displaced people in any residential housing in the development area.
- Provision for the costs of relocating displaced people, including litigation expenses and expenses incident to the transfer of title, in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.
- A plan for compliance with Public Act 227 of 1972 (which provides for financial assistance and other services for people displaced by a State agency's acquisition of real property).
- The requirement that amendments to an approved development plan or TIF plan be submitted to the city's governing body for approval or rejection.
- Other material that the authority, local public agency, or city's governing body considered pertinent.

Before adopting an ordinance approving a development plan or a TIF plan, the city's governing body would have to hold a public hearing. Notice of the hearing would have to be published, posted, and mailed as specified in the bill. At the hearing, the governing body would have to provide an opportunity for interested people to speak and receive and consider written communications. After the hearing, the city's governing body would have to determine whether the development plan or the TIF plan constituted a public purpose. If it so determined, the governing body would have to approve or reject the plan, or approve it with modification based on criteria specified in the bill.

Authority Budget

The director of an authority would have to submit to the board a budget for authority operations for each fiscal year, before the beginning of the fiscal year. After review by the board, the budget would have to be submitted to the city's governing body, which would have to approve the budget before the authority board could adopt it. Unless authorized by the city's governing body or the proposed Act, city funds could not be included in the authority's budget.

ARGUMENTS

(Please note: The arguments contained in this analysis originate from sources outside the Senate Fiscal Agency. The Senate Fiscal Agency neither supports nor opposes legislation.)

Supporting Argument

The bill would provide cities with a much-needed economic development tool to improve neighborhoods, increase property value and property tax revenue, and attract new residents and businesses. Tax increment financing is a proven method for a community to create a revenue stream to invest in its own development, and has long been used for economic development in commercial and industrial areas. While the development of new and expanded business and industrial activity is highly beneficial to a community, thriving residential areas also are an essential component of economic vitality in cities. Making a city a more attractive place to live can influence the decision of a business to remain, locate, or expand in a particular area. Attractive neighborhoods also can draw residents who will shop, dine, and otherwise conduct business in the city. Enhancing residential areas, then, also encourages economic growth. By authorizing cities to create neighborhood improvement authorities and use TIF programs, the bill would provide a mechanism for a city to reverse problems with property deterioration in its neighborhoods and promote residential growth and economic development in the community.

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would increase local unit expenses and possibly increase local unit revenue as well as restrict the spending of any increased local unit revenue. Depending on whether the changes in property values under the bill will occur absent the bill, the bill either would have no effect on State revenue or would accelerate future increases in State revenue and reduce School Aid Fund expenditures. The magnitude of these changes is unknown.

It is unknown how many communities would establish an authority under the bill, or how many authorities would be established within each community. Similarly, it is unknown what properties would be included

within an authority and what the change in property values subject to capture would be.

The bill would allow the taxes resulting from any increase in property tax values to be captured to pay for any authorized expenditures, including payments on bonds issued for the authority. Certain property taxes, such as those levied under the State education tax or local school district and intermediate school district (ISD) mills, would not be subject to capture. Any positive change in property values that will occur absent the bill would represent a delay in future revenue increase for local units. To the extent that the bill produced higher property values than what will occur absent the bill, the bill would increase local unit revenue and State education tax revenue, particularly in the future. In the near-term, any increased property tax revenue from taxes that could be captured would be restricted to the authority.

To the extent that local school district and ISD revenue would be higher under the bill, the bill also would reduce School Aid Fund expenditures. School Aid Fund expenditures are reduced when local school districts and ISDs receive more local revenue, but less money is needed from the State to meet per-pupil funding guarantees.

This analysis is preliminary and will be revised as new information becomes available.

Fiscal Analyst: David Zin

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.