

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Soil and Water Conservation Districts See Changes to Election Procedures and Candidate Qualifications:

[Senate Bill 1078](#) amends the districting procedures, election procedures, and qualifications of supervisors for soil and water conservation districts. First, the bill provides that if a proposed district is located wholly within one county, the district must be subdivided into five numbered subdivisions that match as near as practicable to either the county commission districts or school board districts to ensure geographical representation.

Second, the bill expands upon election procedures and qualifications for the supervisors of each district. One supervisor is to be elected from each of the five numbered subdivisions. Candidates from subdivisions 1, 3, and 5 shall serve for a term of 4 years, and candidates from subdivisions 2 and 4 shall serve for an initial term of 2 years to achieve staggered terms. The bill provides numerous criteria to qualify as a valid candidate. A candidate must: reside in the district; be actively engaged in, or retired after 10 years of being engaged in, agriculture; be employed by an agricultural producer or own, lease, or actively be employed on land classified as agricultural, and; submit an affirmation substantially similar to the one provided in the bill.

The bill requires the five supervisors to meet at least once per calendar year. The failure to do so will result in the automatic dissolution of the district. The bill further recognizes the dissolution of the Baker Soil and Water Conservation District and the Martin Soil and Water Conservation District. SB 1078 was signed into law and became effective on June 15, 2022.