



TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Empowering Texas cities to serve their citizens

President **David Rutledge**, Mayor, Bridge City
Executive Director **Bennett Sandlin**

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Victoria Neave Criado
Chairman, Texas House County Affairs Committee
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Dear Chairman Neave Criado,

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Municipal League in opposition to **H.B. 2925** by **Representative Martinez**. The League understands the author's intent to expand civil service systems for police officers and fire departments. However, the bill, as currently drafted, takes this important decision out of the hands of the very people it seeks to help.

H.B. 2925 would unilaterally establish a civil service system for police and fire departments in every city in Texas with a population of over 25,000. While many Texas cities have voted to adopt civil service systems, several have voted against doing so. And local police officers and firefighters often vote in these elections. The reasons for declining civil service include incompatibility with the size of a city's departments, negative cost-benefit analyses, and an aversion to increasing bureaucratic employment procedures.

While the League agrees that a civil service system can be beneficial in many situations, we believe that the people most affected by this decision – first responders and the communities they serve – should be the ones making the decision.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose H.B. 2925 and urge the committee to take no action on the bill at this time.

Sincerely,

Monty Wynn
Director, Grassroots and Legislative Services
Texas Municipal League