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LB 217

and hearing by each participating local government. Of course, the joint agency or joint entity would have to go through the statutory notice and hearing requirements of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, or the Joint Public Agency Act found in Chapter 13, Article 25. Current law provides that bonded indebtedness is already outside of the lid and the maximum levy limits. Current law also provides that interlocal agreements, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act or the Joint Public Agency Act, are outside of the lid. In addition, current law provides that 5 cents of levy authority for such interlocal agreements can also be used by municipalities and counties. The language which references lid and levy limits is language that was written by bond counsel, who assisted with the drafting of this bill. You might be surprised to know that local governments can already purchase fire trucks. They can build certain buildings outside of the lid levy limitations, with bonded indebtedness, without an election, such as revenue bonds for utility projects, flood control bonds for drainage projects, off-street parking bonds for off-street parking projects in an off-street parking district. You may ask yourself, what is a joint project? Well, pursuant to Sections 2 and 3 of the white copy of LB 217, a joint project would provide the incentive of not having the up-front election when qualified public agencies, as defined together, to issue bonds to finance a joint project for the acquisition, construction, financing, operation, and ownership of two types of projects. This amendment defines "joint project" to mean a project financed and operated by at least two or more qualified public agencies, cooperating as a joint entity or joint public agency for (a) any public building or buildings, related improvements to real estate, including parking facilities, recreational facilities and related improvements to real estate, flood control, any street and road construction, improvements and related fixtures and (b)--and this is very interesting; if you support your public library, you're going to want to pay close attention here, and I can imagine each of you do--any item of hardware or software used in providing for the delivery of information, including the purchasing of upgrades or related improvements to information technology to operate libraries that are owned by counties, municipalities, school districts, ESUs, or community colleges. Think about it for a moment. If you walk into your public