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Texas Annexation Right To Vote Act Passes Senate

AUSTIN - The Texas Senate voted 19-12 today in favor of Senate Bill 6, also known as the Texas Annexation Right to Vote Act. The bill protects homeowners and businesses from forced annexation and makes the municipal annexation process in Texas more democratic, addressing one of Governor Abbott's 20 priority items.

"Today's vote is a victory for the property rights of all citizens and I applaud my colleagues in the Senate for giving Texans a voice in the annexation process," Senator Campbell said. "It is simply wrong to force citizens who live outside the jurisdiction of a city to be absorbed solely to increase a city's tax base. As Texans, we must defend the right to determine who governs us, not let cities determine who they will govern."

The language of Senate Bill 6 mostly matches the content of SB 715, which was filibustered on the last day of the regular session. One new provision, discussed during the interim, provides protection for land use around military bases up to a quarter mile from the fence line. Additionally, an amendment was offered and accepted to apply the voting provisions of the bill to municipalities in counties with a population of 125,000 as opposed to 500,000.

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State Senator Donna Campbell is an emergency room physician who chairs the Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee and represents Senate District 25.