

SUBJECT: Approval for state land transactions between legislative sessions

COMMITTEE: Land and Resource Management — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Bosse, B. Turner, Crabb, Howard, Jackson, Staples
0 nays
3 absent — Hamric, Krusee, Mowery

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND : The General Services Commission (GSC) is allowed to sell real property belonging to the state if authorized to do so by the Texas Legislature.

DIGEST: HB 3366 would allow the GSC to sell or dispose of real property during the interim if granted authority by the governor and the Legislative Budget Board.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1997.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 3366 would give the GSC flexibility to dispose of state land when appropriate. Under current law, the commission is forced to hold back on any transactions until the Legislature is in session. While this restriction provides necessary oversight of state land sales, in practice it impedes the commission from taking advantage of changing real estate markets. HB 3366 would allow GSC more options in disposing of state land, subject to review and approval by both the Legislative Budget Board and the governor.

HB 3366 would still provide for adequate legislative oversight for the disposal of the state's real property because the commission would be required to receive joint approval from the LBB and the governor. The LBB is a responsible body whose decisions are carefully scrutinized and reviewed by the Legislature as a whole. The procedure proposed by HB 3366 would be the same followed when adjustments to the state's budget are necessary when the Legislature is not in session.

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OPPONENTS No apparent opposition.
SAY: