

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing a library district to accept gifts, grants, and donations

**COMMITTEE:** State, Federal and International Relations — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Hunter, Berman, Chavez, Elkins, Isett, C. Jones, Madden, Juan Solis  
0 nays  
1 absent — P. Moreno

**WITNESSES:** For — Kelsee West  
Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** The 75th Legislature added Chapter 326 of the Local Government Code, authorizing suburban communities to create library districts, but the act did not expressly authorize library districts to accept gifts, grants, and donations.

**DIGEST:** HB 585 would authorize library districts to accept and administer a gift, grant, or donation from any source to carry out the purpose of library districts. The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 585 would help library districts carry out their purpose more effectively. That purpose, as defined by Local Government Code, sec. 326.002, is to establish, equip, and maintain public libraries for the dissemination of general information relating to the arts, sciences, and literature.  
  
HB 585 would enable library districts to increase and improve their services to the public without raising taxes. The bill also would allow individuals to become more involved in their community by expanding their options for

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giving. People without heirs might wish to leave part of their estates to a library, but without HB 585, the library could not accept the donation.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No apparent opposition.