

- SUBJECT:** TDHCA input in reports on unused or underused state property
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Carter, Callegari, Edwards, Ehrhardt, Hill, E. Jones, Najera
0 nays
2 absent — Bailey, Burnam
- WITNESSES:** For — David Mintz, Texas Apartment Association; Thomas Wittmer
Against — None
On — Hal Croft, Texas General Land Office
- BACKGROUND:** Natural Resources Code, secs. 31.156 and 31.157 require the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to identify any properties owned or held by state agencies that are not being used or are being substantially underused and make recommendations for their use. A draft report, incorporating any proposals received by the office that would be of significant benefit to the state, is provided for certain state agencies, including the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), for review and comment. TDHCA may make additional recommendations regarding the suitability of any of the properties for affordable housing. Based on these comments, the GLO submits a final report of recommendations to the governor, the presiding officers of both houses of the Legislature, the LBB, and the governor's budget office not later than September 1 of each year.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3623 would amend the Natural Resources Code to require the GLO to solicit recommendations from TDHCA prior to preparing its draft report regarding the suitability of any unused or substantially underused properties held by the state for use as affordable and accessible housing. If TDHCA designated a property as suitable, the final report prepared by the GLO would have to incorporate a recommendation that the property be transferred to an appropriate political subdivision for use as affordable and accessible housing.

If the Legislature authorized the transfer of a property to a political subdivision for use as affordable and accessible housing, GLO would have to conduct the transaction according to a GLO policy developed for this purpose. The policy would have to include monitoring and enforcement provisions to ensure that the property was used for affordable and accessible housing.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2001.

NOTES:

The committee substitute changed all references to “affordable or accessible housing” to “affordable and accessible housing.”