

SUBJECT: Allowing state employee charitable contributions for GLO programs

COMMITTEE: Land and Resource Management — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Mowery, J. Jones, Goolsby, Guillen, Hochberg

0 nays

4 absent — Pickett, Haggerty, Howard, Noriega

WITNESSES: For — Jerry Patterson, General Land Office

Against — None

On — Susan Dorsey and Joan Kilpartrick, General Land Office

BACKGROUND: The annual state employee charitable campaign authorized by Government Code, sec. 659.132, enables state employees to donate money through payroll deductions to one or more charitable organizations on a qualified list. Sec. 659.131 defines a charitable organization as one that:

- is organized for charitable purposes under the Non-Profit Corporation Act or holds a certificate of authority issued under that act;
- is exempted from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- complies with all applicable federal nondiscrimination law;
- complies with all state statutes and rules relating to charitable organizations; and
- is not a private foundation.

Natural Resources Code, sec. 31.052 appoints the General Land Office (GLO) as custodian of state books, accounts, records, papers, maps, and original documents relating to land titles designated as archives by law.

DIGEST: HB 1563 would define GLO as a charitable organization eligible to receive state employees' charitable donations for the sole purpose of administering the Adopt-A-Map/Adopt-A-Document Program. A state employee could

designate GLO as a recipient of a donation during the charitable campaign. GLO could use the contribution for preserving historic maps and documents under the Adopt-A-Map/Adopt-A-Document Program.

GLO could participate in the state employee charitable campaign during fall 2003 without regard to a time limitation during which an organization otherwise would have apply to participate.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2003.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1563 would provide timely and necessary authority to satisfy a public need that otherwise might go unfulfilled. Original maps and documents archived by GLO have historic, artistic, and legal importance, yet they risk degradation and destruction from age and use. The state budget will not accommodate expenditures for preservation and copy work to satisfy GLO's existing need.

GLO's Adopt-A-Map/Adopt-A-Document Program operates as a charitable public-private partnership, allowing donors to "adopt" a map or document for preservation or restoration. Since 2000, donors of more than \$200,000 already have adopted more than 200 maps through the program. HB 1563 would encourage even more private resources to preserve these state treasures.

Public interest in GLO maps and documents suggests that GLO could sell copies of originals it restores. Additional funding for the Adopt-A-Map/Adopt-A-Document Program would help bring this enterprise into fruition. GLO's role as custodian of maps and documents makes its involvement in directing funds and administering the program essential.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 1563 would divert donations from charitable organizations that already participate in the state employee charity campaign. Unlike the Adopt-A-Map/Adopt-A-Document Program, these charities lack close affiliation with state government. Moreover, the GLO program already has received adequate funding to get started and become self-funded through sales of map copies.

HB 1563
House Research Organization
page 3

NOTES: The companion bill, SB 1603 by Ellis, passed the Senate on the Local and Uncontested Calendar on April 16 and has been referred to the House Land and Resource Management Committee.