

SUBJECT: Exempting certain public radio stations from ad valorem taxes

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Oliveira, Bohac, Hartnett, Hilderbran, P. King, Peña
0 nays
2 present, not voting — Paxton, Taylor
3 absent — Otto, C. Howard, Villarreal

WITNESSES: For — Joan Kobayashi, Steve Moore, KMFA; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chuck Bailey, KMFA)
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Tax Code, ch. 11 regulates taxable property and exemptions from ad valorem taxes. Sec. 11.18 sets forth the qualifications for charitable organizations and the entities entitled to an exemption from taxation.

DIGEST: HB 589 would add to the list of charitable organizations that were exempt from ad valorem property taxes a radio station that broadcasts educational, cultural, or other public interest programming, including classical music. The station would have to have received or have been selected to receive a grant within the previous five years from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2010, and would apply only to an ad valorem tax year that began on or after that date.