HOUSE
RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION bill digest   5/8/2019

HB 2971 (2nd reading)
Holland, et al.
(CSHB 2971 by Craddick)

SUBJECT:	Amending administration of Save Texas History program, GLO records
COMMITTEE:	Land and Resource Management — committee substitute recommended
VOTE:	6 ayes — Craddick, Muñoz, C. Bell, Biedermann, Minjarez, Stickland
	0 nays
	3 absent — Canales, Leman, Thierry
WITNESSES:	For — None
	Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sammi Hammers)
	On — Mark Lambert and Susan Smith Dorsey, General Land Office
BACKGROUND:	Natural Resources Code sec. 31.0655 allows a state employee to authorize a deduction for contributions to GLO for the Save Texas History program, which may be used to preserve historic maps and documents.
	Under sec. 31.056, the commissioner of the General Land Office (GLO) must revise and compile the various volumes of the abstracts of patented, titled, and surveyed real property made by GLO. For those purposes, counties must be apportioned into no more than eight districts and the abstracts of each district must be compiled in a separate volume.
	Interested parties seek to assist GLO in preservation, conservation, acquisition, and education-related responsibilities by expanding the use of funds received through the Save Texas History program and updating requirements to maintain abstract books.
DIGEST:	CSHB 2971 would allow the General Land Office (GLO) to use cash, gifts, grants, donations, or in-kind contributions through the Save Texas History program to preserve and promote GLO records, provide educational programming, and acquire additional records.

The bill would amend Natural Resources Code sec. 31.056 to allow, rather than require, the GLO commissioner to revise and compile the volumes of GLO abstracts. Counties could be, but would not have to be, apportioned into districts for those purposes.

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, 2019.