

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R4736 PAM-D

H.J.R. 61
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Texas Constitution prohibits the legislature from authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments. As proposed, H.J.R. 61 requires the submission to the voters of a constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article III, Texas Constitution, by adding Section 52i, as follows:

Sec. 52i. (a) Authorizes a municipality to donate surplus equipment, supplies, or other materials used in fighting fires to the Texas Forest Service or to a successor agency authorized to cooperate in the development of rural fire protection plans.

(b) Authorizes the Texas Forest Service or the successor agency to, based on need, redistribute to rural volunteer fire departments the equipment, supplies, or materials donated under Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Requires this proposed constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2003. Requires the ballot to be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments."