

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.J.R. 61  
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Urban Affairs  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Article III of the Texas Constitution is entitled Legislative Department. It contains the provisions regarding the legislative branch of government, vested in the Senate and House of Representatives. Article III contains provisions regulating procedural matters of the legislature, as well as substantive powers. Section 52, of Article III, also prohibits grants and loans of public property and public money. H.J.R. 61 would authorize an exception from this prohibition for municipalities to give unneeded fire fighting equipment to the state, with further authority to give the equipment to rural volunteer fire departments. As proposed, House Joint Resolution 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**

It is the committee's opinion that this resolution does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Article III of the Texas Constitution to add Section 52-i to authorize cities to give fire fighting equipment, supplies and materials that are surplus to the Texas Forest Service or a successor agency for possible redistribution to rural volunteer fire departments in the state.

SECTION 2. To be voted on November 4, 2003; ballot proposition.

### **FOR ELECTION**

This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2003. If the voters approve the amendment, House Joint Resolution 61 takes effect on the date of the official canvass of returns showing adoption.