

By: Branch

H.B. No. 2882

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the preservation of historic courthouses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 442.0081(b) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A county that owns a historic courthouse may apply to the commission for a grant or loan for a historic courthouse project. The application must:

(1) state the location of the courthouse;

(2) state whether the courthouse is or is likely to become a historic structure;

(3) state the amount of money or in-kind contributions that the county promises to contribute to the project;

(4) state whether the courthouse is currently functioning as a courthouse or served as a functioning courthouse for 75 years or more;

(5) include any plans, including a master preservation plan, that the county may have for the project; and

(6) include any other information that the commission by rule may require.

(d) In considering whether to grant an application, the commission shall give preference to:

(1) a proposed project to preserve or restore a courthouse:

1 (A) that is or is likely to become a historic
2 structure; and

3 (B) that:

4 (i) is still functioning as a courthouse or
5 served as a functioning courthouse for 75 years or more;

6 (ii) was built before 1875; or

7 (iii) is subject to a conservation easement
8 held by the commission; and

9 (2) a county that will provide or has provided at least
10 15 percent of the project's costs, including:

11 (A) in-kind contributions; and

12 (B) previous expenditures for master planning
13 and renovations on the courthouse that are the subject of the
14 application.

15 SECTION 2. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

16 (b) The change in law made by this Act applies only to an
17 application for a grant or loan from the historic courthouse
18 preservation program that is filed with the Texas Historical
19 Commission on or after September 1, 2003.