

By: Gonzales

H.B. No. 2796

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of certain counties to create or finance museums.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 10, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 330 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 330. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 330.001. OPERATION AND FINANCING OF COUNTY MUSEUMS.

(a) This section applies only to a county that has substantial urban areas and borders on an international boundary. For the purposes of this subsection, a county has substantial urban areas only if at least four municipalities, each with a population of more than 25,000, are located in the county.

(b) A county may construct or operate a museum in the county to display, construct, restore, preserve, maintain, or reconstruct buildings, works of art, and related furnishings for exhibitions.

(c) A county may contract with an entity operating a museum in the county to provide the museum described by Subsection (b). To be eligible to enter into the contract, the entity must be:

(1) organized under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (Article 1396-1.01 et seq., Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); and

(2) accredited by a nationally recognized association of museums acceptable to the county.

(d) As part of the contract, the commissioners court may

1 appropriate money from the general fund of the county to the museum  
2 to purchase, display, construct, restore, preserve, maintain,  
3 operate, or reconstruct a building, work of art, or related  
4 furnishings used by the museum to further its exhibitions or  
5 operations and to promote county purposes under this chapter.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.