

1-1 By: Watson S.B. No. 455  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 5, 2007; February 21, 2007,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;  
1-4 March 19, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,  
1-5 Nays 0; March 19, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the authority of the General Land Office to accept  
1-9 grants.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 31.065, Natural Resources Code, is  
1-12 amended to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 31.065. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GRANTS, GIFTS, DEVISES,  
1-14 TRUSTS, AND BEQUESTS. (a) In the absence of any law to the  
1-15 contrary, the commissioner may, if he determines it to be in the  
1-16 best interest of the state, accept grants, gifts, devise, or  
1-17 bequests, either absolutely or in trust, of money or real or  
1-18 personal property on behalf of the state. Real property so acquired  
1-19 by the state becomes public free school land unless the person  
1-20 making the grant, gift, devise, or bequest provides that the real  
1-21 property is to be possessed, administered, or used by a particular  
1-22 state agency, board, commission, department, or other particular  
1-23 state entity.

1-24 (b) Under Subsection (a) of this section, the commissioner  
1-25 may accept a grant, gift, devise, or bequest even if it is  
1-26 encumbered, restricted, or subject to a beneficial interest of  
1-27 private persons or corporations as long as any current or future use  
1-28 or interest in the grant, gift, devise, or bequest is for the  
1-29 benefit of the state.

1-30 (c) If the commissioner determines that the real property  
1-31 acquired by the state by grant, gift, devise, or bequest is not  
1-32 suitable for the purpose for which the grant, gift, devise, or  
1-33 bequest was originally made, the commissioner together with the  
1-34 agency, board, commission, department, or other state entity  
1-35 designated to possess, administer, or use the real property may  
1-36 exchange the real property for real property that is suitable for  
1-37 such purpose.

1-38 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-39 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-40 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-41 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-42 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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