

1-1 By: Harless, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Kolkhorst) H.B. No. 2528
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2015;
 1-3 May 7, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural
 1-4 Resources and Economic Development; May 22, 2015, reported
 1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 22, 2015,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8 | | | | |
| 1-9 | X | | | |
| 1-10 | X | | | |
| 1-11 | X | | | |
| 1-12 | X | | | |
| 1-13 | X | | | |
| 1-14 | X | | | |
| 1-15 | X | | | |
| 1-16 | X | | | |
| 1-17 | X | | | |
| 1-18 | X | | | |
| 1-19 | X | | | |

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to the authority of a water district to accept donations to
 1-23 fund certain economic development programs.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 49, Water Code, is amended
 1-26 by adding Section 49.2291 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 49.2291. DONATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (a) In
 1-28 this section, "economic development program" has the meaning
 1-29 assigned by Section 152.151.

1-30 (b) This section applies only to a district located in the
 1-31 unincorporated area of a county with a population of four million or
 1-32 more.

1-33 (c) A district may accept a donation in any form from any
 1-34 source approved by the board to provide funds to a nonprofit
 1-35 organization providing economic development programs that the
 1-36 board determines will preserve property values in the district.

1-37 (d) A contract with a nonprofit organization providing
 1-38 economic development programs described by Subsection (c) may
 1-39 include the specific uses of donations collected by the district on
 1-40 behalf of the nonprofit organization under this section.

1-41 (e) A contract entered into under Subsection (d) must
 1-42 require the nonprofit organization administering the program to:

1-43 (1) maintain accounting records and funds independent
 1-44 of all other funds unrelated to the program;

1-45 (2) make the records maintained under Subdivision (1)
 1-46 available for public inspection at reasonable times;

1-47 (3) have an annual independent audit made of the
 1-48 accounting records and funds;

1-49 (4) use the funds only for programs in a county
 1-50 described by Subsection (b); and

1-51 (5) reimburse the district for costs of collection
 1-52 incurred by the district, except to the extent that the district
 1-53 agrees to bear those costs.

1-54 (f) All records of the administrator of an economic
 1-55 development program, unless protected from disclosure under
 1-56 Chapter 552, Government Code, shall be public information, as
 1-57 defined by Section 552.002, Government Code.

1-58 (g) A district providing potable water or sewer service may,
 1-59 as part of its billing process, collect from customers voluntary
 1-60 donations on behalf of a nonprofit organization providing economic
 1-61 development programs described by Subsection (c). A district that

2-1 collects voluntary donations under this subsection must give
2-2 reasonable notice to customers that the donations are voluntary.
2-3 If a donation is included in the total amount of a district's bill
2-4 to a customer, the bill must identify the exact amount of the
2-5 donation and include a telephone number the customer can call to
2-6 have the donation deleted from the bill and any future bills issued
2-7 to that customer. Water and sewer service may not be terminated as
2-8 a result of failing to pay a voluntary donation.

2-9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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