86R5619 LHC-D

By:  Raymond H.B. No. 1201

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property owned by a charitable organization for the purpose of renting the property at below-market rates to low-income or moderate-income individuals or families.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 11.18, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (r) to read as follows:

(d)  A charitable organization must be organized exclusively to perform religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes and, except as permitted by Subsections (h) and (l), engage exclusively in performing one or more of the following charitable functions:

(1)  providing medical care without regard to the beneficiaries' ability to pay, which in the case of a nonprofit hospital or hospital system means providing charity care and community benefits in accordance with Section 11.1801;

(2)  providing support or relief to orphans, delinquent, dependent, or handicapped children in need of residential care, abused or battered spouses or children in need of temporary shelter, the impoverished, or victims of natural disaster without regard to the beneficiaries' ability to pay;

(3)  providing support without regard to the beneficiaries' ability to pay to:

(A)  elderly persons, including the provision of:

(i)  recreational or social activities; and

(ii)  facilities designed to address the special needs of elderly persons; or

(B)  the handicapped, including training and employment:

(i)  in the production of commodities; or

(ii)  in the provision of services under 41 U.S.C. Sections 8501-8506;

(4)  preserving a historical landmark or site;

(5)  promoting or operating a museum, zoo, library, theater of the dramatic or performing arts, or symphony orchestra or choir;

(6)  promoting or providing humane treatment of animals;

(7)  acquiring, storing, transporting, selling, or distributing water for public use;

(8)  answering fire alarms and extinguishing fires with no compensation or only nominal compensation to the members of the organization;

(9)  promoting the athletic development of boys or girls under the age of 18 years;

(10)  preserving or conserving wildlife;

(11)  promoting educational development through loans or scholarships to students;

(12)  providing halfway house services pursuant to a certification as a halfway house by the parole division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

(13)  providing permanent housing and related social, health care, and educational facilities for persons who are 62 years of age or older without regard to the residents' ability to pay;

(14)  promoting or operating an art gallery, museum, or collection, in a permanent location or on tour, that is open to the public;

(15)  providing for the organized solicitation and collection for distributions through gifts, grants, and agreements to nonprofit charitable, education, religious, and youth organizations that provide direct human, health, and welfare services;

(16)  performing biomedical or scientific research or biomedical or scientific education for the benefit of the public;

(17)  operating a television station that produces or broadcasts educational, cultural, or other public interest programming and that receives grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting under 47 U.S.C. Section 396, as amended;

(18)  providing housing for low-income and moderate-income families, for unmarried individuals 62 years of age or older, for handicapped individuals, and for families displaced by urban renewal, through the use of trust assets that are irrevocably and, pursuant to a contract entered into before December 31, 1972, contractually dedicated on the sale or disposition of the housing to a charitable organization that performs charitable functions described by Subdivision (9);

(19)  providing housing and related services to persons who are 62 years of age or older in a retirement community, if the retirement community provides independent living services, assisted living services, and nursing services to its residents on a single campus:

(A)  without regard to the residents' ability to pay; or

(B)  in which at least four percent of the retirement community's combined net resident revenue is provided in charitable care to its residents;

(20)  providing housing on a cooperative basis to students of an institution of higher education if:

(A)  the organization is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(3) of that code;

(B)  membership in the organization is open to all students enrolled in the institution and is not limited to those chosen by current members of the organization;

(C)  the organization is governed by its members; and

(D)  the members of the organization share the responsibility for managing the housing;

(21)  acquiring, holding, and transferring unimproved real property under an urban land bank demonstration program established under Chapter 379C, Local Government Code, as or on behalf of a land bank;

(22)  acquiring, holding, and transferring unimproved real property under an urban land bank program established under Chapter 379E, Local Government Code, as or on behalf of a land bank;

(23)  providing housing and related services to individuals who:

(A)  are unaccompanied and homeless and have a disabling condition; and

(B)  have been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the preceding three years;

(24)  operating a radio station that broadcasts educational, cultural, or other public interest programming, including classical music, and that in the preceding five years has received or been selected to receive one or more grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting under 47 U.S.C. Section 396, as amended; [~~or~~]

(25)  providing, without regard to the beneficiaries' ability to pay, tax return preparation services and assistance with other financial matters; or

(26)  providing:

(A)  housing counseling services without regard to the beneficiaries' ability to pay; and

(B)  rental housing to low-income and moderate-income individuals and families at below-market rates.

(r)  The exemption authorized by Subsection (d)(26) applies only to property that is used to provide rental housing to low-income and moderate-income individuals and families at below-market rates.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies only to an ad valorem tax year that begins on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.