

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3669

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 8:00 AM

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Susan Wilson, Librarian

Self

LONGVIEW, TX

Dear Committee Members:

This bill would allow academic libraries to give away books, free of charge, to the individuals in the community. The give aways would come from those books discarded from our collections, and books not kept from donated collections. This action would support literacy, provide an easy way to dispose of books, and build bonds between the colleges and their communities. It would provide a way for families to dispose of book collections of deceased loved ones and offer the chance for those books to go to someone who would use them and cherish them. These books are often older items that are too worn out to repair, or are no longer accurate due to newer discoveries.

The current law, Texas Government Code, Title 10, Subtitle D, Chapter 2175: Surplus and Salvage Property, lists organizations to which items can be given. However, these used books are often not appropriate for the listed organizations.

Making the requested change would provide a clear interpretation of the law, so that colleges, universities, junior/community colleges and vocational schools would not need to question the legality of disposing of books in this manner.

Respectfully submitted.