

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2920
By: Hodge (West)
Intergovernmental Relations
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Engrossed

DIGEST

A state statute was created in 1987 to specifically allow The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, Texas to charge admission. The museum is located in the former Texas School Book Depository building, and is operated by the Dallas County Historical Foundation, a nonprofit organization. The building is now owned by Dallas County, which utilizes five floors for offices.

At the time the museum was established the statute provided for all admission fees to be deposited in a special county fund. In practice the money is deposited and then transferred back to the foundation for operational purposes. This process has proven to be cumbersome. Further, the museum generates some of its operating income through grants and private gifts. Many foundations, corporations, and individuals do not give to governmental entities. The bill would allow the foundation and the county to clarify their relationship.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2920 allows a nonprofit organization to contract with a county commissioners court to operate a museum or historic site in a county with a population of 1.2 million or more.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 316B, Local Government Code, by adding Section 316.022, as follows:

Sec. 316.022. MUSEUMS AND HISTORIC SITES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES OPERATED BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. Authorizes the commissioners court of a county with a population of 1,200,000 or more to enter into certain contracts with a nonprofit organization. Requires the commissioners court, by order, to set the admission fee authorized by the contract. Provides that the funds generated by the admission fees are not required to be deposited in the county treasury. Authorizes the nonprofit organization to spend funds generated by the admission fees for the payment of certain costs. Prohibits the funds from being used for purposes other than those associated with the building or site. Defines "nonprofit organization."

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.