

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R6070 JMG-D

S.J.R. 32
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Intergovernmental Relations
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the donation of used, outdated, or surplus equipment to underdeveloped or impoverished countries is not allowed under Article III, Section 52, of the Texas Constitution. Under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Government Code, only donations to bordering states or other local governments are permitted. The Dallas Fire Department wishes to make donations to Mexico as a goodwill gesture. The department believes that the equipment would not attract attention to the open public market, but might still be of great assistance to departments in municipalities that are not as advanced and that have a recognizable need. As proposed, S.J.R. 32 authorizes a municipality to donate to an underdeveloped country outdated or surplus equipment, supplies, or other materials used in fighting fires.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article III, Texas Constitution, by adding Section 52h, as follows:

Sec. 52h. Authorizes a municipality to donate to an underdeveloped country outdated or surplus equipment, supplies, or other materials used in fighting fires.

SECTION 2. Requires this proposed constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 6, 2001. Requires the ballot to be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate outdated or surplus firefighting equipment or supplies to underdeveloped counties."