

SUBJECT: Conveyance of property to universities by junior colleges

COMMITTEE: Land and Resource Management — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Walker, Crabb, Bosse, F. Brown, Hardcastle, Howard, Krusee, Mowery, B. Turner
0 nays

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: HB 2782 would allow a public junior college or junior college district to sell, lease, or otherwise convey property to a university system for less than the fair-market value of the property. For this to occur, the governing board of the junior college or district would have to determine that the transfer of property would promote a public purpose related to higher education within the service area of the college or district.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Land transfers under HB 2782 could facilitate the expansion of universities at reduced cost. The growth of universities provides significant public benefits to all state residents. Educational institutions around the state have developed plans for property transfers and are waiting for statutory authority to proceed with these plans. This bill would ensure that universities would develop the transferred property for the benefit of the public good.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES: A similar bill, SB 1289 by Zaffirini, which passed the Senate on April 19 and the House on May 11, would allow political subdivisions and industrial development corporations, as well as public junior colleges, to transfer land to institutions of higher education for less than fair-market value.