

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R5958 KEL-F

H.B. 1749
By: Hupp (Fraser)
Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
5/10/2003
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under Section 49 of Article III of the Texas Constitution, the Veterans' Land Board of the State of Texas (VLB) is authorized to administer the veterans' land program and the veterans' housing assistance program. The 77th Legislature passed a constitutional amendment, which was approved by the voters in November 2001, allowing excess assets in those programs also to be used to plan and design, operate, maintain, enlarge, or improve veterans cemeteries. The VLB also currently operates four state veterans homes. The Texas Constitution does not currently provide for the use of assets in the veterans' land program or the veterans' housing assistance program for the state veterans home program. H.B. 1749 is the enacting legislation for H.J.R. 68, which amends the Texas Constitution to authorize VLB, if it determines that receipts of the veterans' land fund, veterans' housing assistance fund, or veterans' housing assistance fund II are not required for the payment of debt service on the general obligation bonds benefitting those funds, to use such receipts to pay the debt service on any revenue bonds issued by the VLB.

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 Section 164.009(a), Natural Resources Code, to delete text referring to certain sections of the Texas Constitution and text referring to bonds issued to provide funds to purchase and sell land or make home mortgage loans to veterans. Specifies that the general obligation bonds are issued by the Veterans' Land Board (VLB) to augment certain funds.

SECTION 2. Effective date: The date on which the constitutional amendment proposed by the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, authorizing VLB to make certain payments on revenue bonds and to use assets in certain funds to provide for veterans homes, takes effect. Provides that this Act has no effect if that amendment is not approved by the voters.