

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 1543
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Finance
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Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, property owned by the State of Texas or a political subdivision thereof is exempt from taxation if the property is used for public purposes. Use of public property by a religious organization does not fall within the definition of use for public purposes. C.S.S.B. 1543 provides that property owned by this state or a political subdivision of this state, including a leasehold or other possessory interest in the property, that is held or occupied by an organization that qualifies as a religious organization as provided by Subsection (c) is entitled to an exemption from taxation if the property meets certain requirements. This bill also authorizes the religious organization, for purposes of the exemption provided by Subsection (h), to apply for the exemption and take other action relating to the exemption as if the organization owned the property.

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 11.20, Tax Code, by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (h) and (i), as follows:

(d) Makes conforming changes.

(h) Provides that property owned by this state or a political subdivision of this state, including a leasehold or other possessory interest in the property, that is held or occupied by an organization that qualifies as a religious organization as provided by Subsection (c) is entitled to an exemption from taxation if the property meets certain requirements.

(i) Authorizes the religious organization, for purposes of the exemption provided by Subsection (h), to apply for the exemption and take other action relating to the exemption as if the organization owned the property.

SECTION 2. Effective date: January 1, 2004.
Makes application of this Act prospective.