
Local Government Committee

HB 2290

Brief Description: Simplifying the process for donating low-value surplus property owned by a city-owned utility.

Sponsors: Representatives Wylie, Harris, Dolan and Stonier.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a city to dispose of its surplus land, property, or equipment that was originally acquired for public utility purposes and that is not required for providing continued public utility services without adopting a resolution or holding a public hearing if such property has an estimated value of fifty thousand dollars or less.

Hearing Date: 1/11/18

Staff: Cassie Jones (786-7303).

Background:

In general, a city may acquire real and personal property and convey or dispose of it for the benefit of the city.

Lease, sale, or conveyance of public utility works, plants, or systems.

A city or town may construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, alter, maintain and operate works, plants, facilities for the purpose of furnishing the city or town and its inhabitants, and any other persons, with gas, electricity, and other means of power and facilities for lighting, including streetlights as an integral utility service.

A city may lease or sell and convey any public utility works, plant, or system owned by it together with any or all equipment and appurtenances. If the legislative authority of the city deems it advisable to lease or sell the works, plant, or system, it must adopt a resolution stating whether it intends to lease or sell and include the general terms of the lease or sale. The resolution must direct the city clerk to publish the resolution in the official newspaper of the city

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once a week for at least four weeks. The clerk must publish with the resolution a notice calling for sealed bids to be filed with the clerk by a certain date. The legislative authority may reject any or all bids and accept any bid it deems best; two thirds of all members of the legislative authority must vote in favor of a resolution declaring it advisable to accept a bid. The legislative authority must then enact an ordinance accepting the bid and executing the lease or sale. The ordinance does not take effect until it has been approved by a majority of voters of the city at an election. The ordinance, if approved, takes effect when the election result is proclaimed by the mayor. The mayor must proclaim the vote as soon as it is certified.

Lease, sale, or conveyance of surplus property acquired for public utility purposes.

If a city determines by resolution that any land, property, or equipment originally acquired for public utility purposes is surplus to the city's needs and is not required for providing continued public utility service, then the legislative authority may, by resolution, cause such lands, property, or equipment to be leased, sold, or conveyed. The legislative authority must hold a public hearing prior to the lease, sale, or conveyance. The resolution must state the fair market value or rent or consideration to be paid and other terms and conditions of the disposition that the legislative authority deems to be in the public interest. The procedures, regarding the lease, sale, or conveyance of public utility works, plants, or systems, including requirements for public notice, bids, and election, do not apply to the lease, sale, or conveyance of surplus property acquired for public utility purposes that is not required for providing continued utility services.

Summary of Bill:

A city may dispose of any land, property, or equipment originally acquired for public utility purposes that is surplus to the city's needs and is not required for providing continued public utility services without adopting a resolution or holding a public hearing if such property has an estimated value of fifty thousand dollars or less.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.