

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 1912  
By: Elkins  
Government Transparency & Operation  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Interested observers note the accumulation and production of large quantities of data by state agencies and the fact that each state agency currently collects and manages its customer data independently. These observers contend that integration of data across various systems within an organization increases the accuracy of the data and therefore its value, and that, conversely, a lack of data coordination across agencies limits opportunities for informed decision making and creating a streamlined and efficient government that can meet the needs of its citizens. According to these observers, Texas could be better prepared for and more resilient to disaster by improving interagency coordination, reducing duplicative data collection, and increasing accountability to ensure compliance, and a statewide data coordinator could provide these benefits. C.S.H.B. 1912 seeks to address the need for interagency coordination of data collection and data sharing.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 1912 amends the Government Code to require the executive director of the Department of Information Resources (DIR), using existing DIR funds and as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, to employ a statewide data coordinator to improve the control and security of information collected by state agencies; to promote the sharing of information, including customer information, between state agencies; and to reduce information collection costs incurred by the state. The bill requires the statewide data coordinator to develop and implement best practices among state agencies to improve interagency information coordination, reduce duplicative information collection, increase accountability and ensure compliance with statutes and rules requiring agencies to share information, and improve information management and analysis in order to increase information security, uncover fraud and waste, reduce agency costs, improve agency operations, and verify compliance with applicable laws. The bill requires each state agency to cooperate with the statewide data coordinator in fulfilling these requirements.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2015.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE**

While C.S.H.B. 1912 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial

differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

#### INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2054.0286 to read as follows:

Sec. 2054.0286. STATEWIDE DATA COORDINATOR. (a) The board, using existing funds, shall employ a statewide data coordinator to:

(1) improve the control and security of information collected by state agencies;

(2) promote between state agencies the sharing of information, including customer information; and

(3) reduce information collection costs incurred by this state.

(b) The statewide data coordinator shall develop and implement best practices among state agencies to:

(1) improve interagency information coordination;

(2) reduce duplicative information collection;

(3) increase accountability and ensure compliance with statutes and rules requiring agencies to share information; and

(4) improve information management and analysis to increase information security, uncover fraud and waste, reduce agency costs, improve agency operations, and verify compliance with applicable laws.

(c) Each state agency shall cooperate with the statewide data coordinator in fulfilling the requirements of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the board at its discretion may eliminate the position of statewide data coordinator if the board determines that having an employee in that position no longer serves the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the governing board of the Department of Information Resources shall employ a statewide data coordinator as required by Section 2054.0286, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2054.0286 to read as follows:

Sec. 2054.0286. STATEWIDE DATA COORDINATOR. (a) The executive director, using existing department funds, shall employ a statewide data coordinator to:

(1) improve the control and security of information collected by state agencies;

(2) promote between state agencies the sharing of information, including customer information; and

(3) reduce information collection costs incurred by this state.

(b) The statewide data coordinator shall develop and implement best practices among state agencies to:

(1) improve interagency information coordination;

(2) reduce duplicative information collection;

(3) increase accountability and ensure compliance with statutes and rules requiring agencies to share information; and

(4) improve information management and analysis to increase information security, uncover fraud and waste, reduce agency costs, improve agency operations, and verify compliance with applicable laws.

(c) Each state agency shall cooperate with the statewide data coordinator in fulfilling the requirements of this section.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive director of the Department of Information Resources shall employ a statewide data coordinator as required by Section 2054.0286, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. Same as introduced version.