

SUBJECT: Exempting attorney general costs from competitive bidding

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Seidlits, S. Turner, Black, Bosse, Carter, Danburg, Hilbert, Hochberg, B. Hunter. D. Jones. McCall, Wolens

0 nays

3 absent — Alvarado, Craddick, Ramsay

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 26 — 31-0

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Jerry Benedict, Attorney General's Office

DIGEST: SB 1344 would exempt from General Services Commission competitive bidding requirements supplies, materials, services or equipment associated with any suit, action or proceeding brought or defended by the attorney general.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1995.

SUPPORTERS SAY: SB 1344 would allow the Attorney General's Office to do its work in a timely manner and save the taxpayers money. Nearly all of the costs associated with the attorney general bringing or defending a suit are set by the court. The only service that could be bid are court reporters — generally, an unworkable situation.

Court reporters are needed on short notice and often there is only one reporting service when the venue is a small town. The Attorney General's Office has never solicited bids for court reporters, and the problem has come up only recently because the comptroller is placing all the court services on one voucher.

SB 1344
House Research Organization
page 2

OPPONENTS No apparent opposition.
SAY: