

SUBJECT: Electronic distribution of information to legislators by state agencies

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 13 ayes — Solomons, Menendez, Cook, Craddick, Farabee, Gallego,  
Harless, Hilderbran, Jones, Lucio, Oliveira, Swinford, S. Turner

0 nays

2 absent — Geren, Maldonado

WITNESSES: For —None

Against — None

On— David Duncan, Texas Department of Information Resources

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code, sec. 2052.002, state agencies that issue publications on the work of the agency and distribute the publications to legislators must send each legislator a written notice of the publication before it is distributed to determine whether the legislator wants to receive the publication. A legislator who wants to receive the publication must notify the state agency.

State agencies that distribute reports required by law must send a written notice to each legislator that the report is available, either by mail or, if it is acceptable to the legislator, electronically. The notice must:

- briefly describe the subject of the report
- state how the legislator may obtain the report electronically; and
- state that the agency will send a paper copy to the legislator at their request.

DIGEST: CSHB 576 would amend Government Code, sec. 2052 to require state agencies that issue publications on the work of the agency and distribute them to legislators to electronically notify legislators of the availability of the publication. A legislator who chose to receive the publication would notify the agency and could do so electronically.

The bill also would require state agencies that produce a report required by law to send notification to legislators electronically.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.