

- SUBJECT:** Energy and water management reporting by state agencies
- COMMITTEE:** Government Efficiency and Reform — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Harper-Brown, Perry, Capriglione, Stephenson, Taylor, Scott Turner, Vo
0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 27— 30-0
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Myron Hess, National Wildlife Federation; Chloe Lieberknecht, The Nature Conservancy; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club; David Weinberg, Texas League of Conservation Voters; Kaiba White, Public Citizen)
Against — None
On — Patrick Moore, Legislative Budget Board
- BACKGROUND:** The Legislative Budget Board’s (LBB’s) *Texas State Government Effectiveness and Efficiency* report (GEER) recommends that the state update energy and water reporting requirements. This recommendation closely follows the requirements of Executive Order RP-49, issued by Gov. Rick Perry in 2005 and Texas Government Code, ch. 447.009, which governs energy and water management planning.

Executive Order RP-49 requires each state agency to develop a plan for conserving energy and to set a percentage goal for reducing use of electricity, gasoline, and natural gas. The order requires state agencies to submit the energy conservation plan to the LBB and the Office of the Governor.

Texas Government Code, ch. 447.009 requires that a state agency or an institution of higher education develop a long-range plan for the delivery of reliable, cost-effective utility services for the state agency or institution. It also requires the state energy conservation office to assist each agency

or institution in preparing comprehensive energy and water management plans.

DIGEST: CSSB 700 would require the state energy conservation office to develop a template for state agencies and institutions of higher education to use in creating energy and water management plans. State agencies and institutions would be required to set percentage goals for reducing their use of energy and water and to include those goals in their comprehensive energy and water management plans. The agency or institution would have to update the plan annually, instead of biennially.

The state energy conservation office, not later than December 1 immediately preceding each regular legislative session, would be required to submit to the governor and the LBB a report on the status and effectiveness of utility management and conservation efforts at agencies and institutions. The report would include information from each agency and institution. The state energy conservation office would be required to post the report on its website.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSSB 700 would clarify and streamline existing reporting requirements but would not require new reports or the gathering of additional data.

Reports generated as a result of executive order RP-49 currently are due quarterly. The Government Code requires agencies and institutions to develop plans and update them every two years. The executive order and the requirements of the Government Code are similar but not identical. For example, the Government Code does not require a report on the use of gasoline and natural gas, whereas the executive order does. State agency reporting of resource efficiency required by under the Government Code decreased after the executive order was issued.

CSSB 700 would ensure that reporting was uniform and covered water, energy use, and conservation measures.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES: The House committee substitute would use the word “energy” in lieu of words “electricity, gasoline and natural gas” used in the Senate bill to

describe the elements required to be included in an agency's or institution's plan.

Two House companion bills, HB 1182 by Kacal and HB 2674 by Ashby, were referred to the Government Efficiency and Reform Committee. HB 1182 was scheduled to be heard in a public hearing on April 15, but the committee considered SB 700 in its place.