

- SUBJECT:** Creating an energy efficiency program for certain state-owned buildings
- COMMITTEE:** Energy Resources — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Darby, Paddie, Anchia, Canales, Dale, Keffer, Landgraf, Meyer, Riddle, Wu
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Craddick, Herrero, P. King
- WITNESSES:** For — Mike Peters, Lewis Energy Group; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Michael Chatron, AGC Texas Building Branch; Steve Perry, Chevron USA; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; David Weinberg, Texas League of Conservation Voters; John Pitts, Jr., Texas Solar Power Association)
- Against — None
- On — Dub Taylor, Comptroller of Public Accounts, State Energy Conservation Office; David Claridge, Energy Systems Laboratory, TEES; (*Registered, but did not testify:* John Raff, Texas Facilities Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 2166 governs state building construction and acquisition and disposition of real property. Ch. 2166, subch. I provides provisions related to the conservation of energy and water at state buildings.
- Recently, the private sector has been making significant advances in the use of energy-efficient technologies and practices. Observers have noted that Texas could examine how changes could be made in energy use on the state level and implement energy-efficient practices to ensure that the state used taxpayer dollars efficiently.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2919 would require the Texas A&M Energy Systems Laboratory, in consultation with the Texas Facilities Commission and the State Energy

Conservation Office, to create a pilot program in which the State Energy Conservation Office made or guaranteed loans to governmental entities to finance energy efficiency improvements in state-owned buildings that would generate a 30 percent return on investment from savings on utility costs.

Money saved from decreased utility costs could be appropriated only to the agency that owned the buildings with energy efficiency improvements.

The provisions in this bill would expire August 31, 2020.

This 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, 2015.