

**SUBJECT:** Allowing the comptroller to engage with third parties in purchasing

**COMMITTEE:** Government Transparency and Operation — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Elkins, Walle, Galindo, Gonzales, Gutierrez, Leach, Scott Turner

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Todd Abner, National IPA, NCPP

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 2156.181 allows the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to enter into agreements, including cooperative purchasing agreements, with other state governments, agencies of other states, and other governmental entities. This enables the comptroller to save the state money by using established cooperative purchasing contracts negotiated by other parties.

In recent years, firms that market and manage cooperative purchasing agreements on behalf of other government agencies have emerged.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 3342 would expand the comptroller's ability to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements by amending Government Code, sec. 2156.181 to allow the comptroller to engage with third parties that were not government entities to sponsor, administer, or participate in these contracts.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2015.