

**SUBJECT:** Amending certain resource conservation planning, reporting requirements

**COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 11 ayes — Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farney, Geren, Harless, Huberty, Kuempel, Minjarez, Oliveira, Sylvester Turner

0 nays

2 absent — Farrar, Smithee

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 30 — 31-0, on local and uncontested calendar

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Michael Jewell, Environmental Defense Fund; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 447.009 requires the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) to provide energy and water management planning assistance to state agencies and institutions of higher education. Under this section, SECO was required to provide assistance to state agencies in creating long-term plans for resource and energy conservation.

SB 700 by Hegar, enacted in the regular session of the 83rd Legislature, amended this section by requiring that state agencies and institutions of higher education work with SECO to submit a report to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board by December 1 of each even-numbered year on the status and effectiveness of conservation efforts of state agencies and higher education institutions.

Government Code, sec. 2166.409 also requires each state agency to develop a plan for conserving energy and to file a quarterly report with the governor and the Legislative Budget Board on the plan's progress.

Observers have expressed concerns that the energy and water usage

reporting requirements for state agencies and higher education institutions under current law are duplicative and inconsistent.

DIGEST:

CSSB 913 would remove the requirement that state agencies and institutions of higher education work with SECO to create a long-term plan for energy and resource management by September 1, 2006. The bill also would change when state agencies and institutions of higher education had to submit their biennial reports from December 1 of each even-numbered year to January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

The bill would specify that state agencies and institutions of higher education, as part of required comprehensive energy and water management plans, had to set percentage goals for reducing their use of “transportation fuel,” rather than “gasoline.” It also would remove certain energy and water management planning requirements for a state agency or higher education institution occupying a state-owned building.

CSSB 913 also would repeal Government Code, sec. 2166.409.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2015.