

- SUBJECT:** Reducing conservation management planning and reporting requirements
- COMMITTEE:** Government Transparency and Operation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 4 ayes — Elkins, Capriglione, Lucio, Uresti
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Gonzales, Shaheen, Tinderholt
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 19 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Christopher Mullins, Sierra Club; David Lancaster, Texas Society of Architects; David Matiella, USGBC Texas; Kenneth Flippin)
- Against — None
- On — Dub Taylor, Comptroller of Public Accounts
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 447.009 requires a state agency or institution of higher education to develop an energy and water management plan that will be used in preparing its five-year construction and major renovations plans. The State Energy Conservation Office is required to provide energy and water management planning assistance to a state agency or an institution of higher education, including:
- preparation by the agency or institution of a long-range plan for the delivery of reliable, cost-effective utility services for the state agency or institution;
  - assistance to the Department of Public Safety for energy emergency contingency planning, using state or federal funds when available;
  - assistance to each state agency or institution of higher education in preparing comprehensive energy and water management plans; and

- assisting state agencies in meeting conservation requirements, including scheduling and assigning priorities to implementation plans to ensure that state agencies adopt qualified cost-effective efficiency measures and programs for all state facilities.

A state agency or institution of higher education that occupies a state-owned building is required to prepare and implement a five-year energy and water management plan, and to update the plan annually.

Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the State Energy Conservation Office is required to submit a report to the governor and the Legislative Budget Board on the status and effectiveness of the utility management and conservation efforts of state agencies and institutions of higher education. The report also must be posted on the office's website.

Observers have noted that there are numerous overlapping or inconsistent energy and water management reporting requirements for state agencies and institutions of higher education.

DIGEST:

SB 59 would remove the requirement that the State Energy Conservation Office assist a state agency in meeting conservation requirements by scheduling and assigning priorities to implementation plans to ensure that state agencies adopt qualified cost-effective efficiency measures and programs for all state facilities.

It also would remove the requirement that a state agency or institution of higher education develop a long-range plan for the delivery of reliable, cost-effective utility services for the state agency or institution.

Additionally, state agencies or institutions of higher education occupying a state-owned building would no longer have to prepare and implement a five-year energy and water management plan.

The bill would change the submission date for the report by the State Energy Conservation Office to January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2017.