

SUBJECT: Removing certain reporting requirements for certain state agencies

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 23 ayes — Zerwas, Longoria, Ashby, G. Bonnen, Cospers, Dean, Giddings, Gonzales, González, Howard, Koop, Miller, Muñoz, Perez, Phelan, Raney, Roberts, J. Rodriguez, Rose, Sheffield, Simmons, VanDeaver, Walle

0 nays

4 absent — Capriglione, S. Davis, Dukes, Wu

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 3 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nanette Pfiester, Texas State Library and Archives Commission)

BACKGROUND: Since the 79th Legislature in 2005, a rider has been included in the general appropriations act to require the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to prepare a written report of all statutorily required reports prepared by and submitted to a state agency. The report includes an assessment from each receiving agency affirming or denying the continued usefulness of each report to that agency. The results have been used by the Legislature to streamline agency reporting requirements by repealing obsolete reports, reducing frequency of some reports, and redirecting some reports to relevant recipients.

DIGEST: SB 80 would repeal or modify certain reporting requirements in the Education Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Utilities Code, and Water Code. The changes would include:

- repealing progress reports required of the Educational Economic Policy Center;
- removing the Sunset Advisory Commission as a recipient of state agency five-year strategic plans, annual agency internal audit reports, and an annual report from the Office of Public Utility Counsel;
- replacing the abolished Texas System of Care Consortium with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) as the recipient of certain reports;
- excluding the governing body of the Department of Aging and Disability Services or its successor agency as a recipient of the annual progress report submitted by the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless;
- removing programs implemented by the State Energy Conservation Office from an annual report from the Public Utility Commission to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ); and
- removing the executive commissioner of HHSC from entities to which the Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Development Disorders makes a biennial report.

The bill would amend HB 2 by Otto, the supplemental appropriations bill enacted by the 84th Legislature in 2015, to remove language that required HHSC to report certain information to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) before making any capitation payments to managed care organizations that are adjusted using money appropriated under that bill.

The following provisions would be repealed:

- annual assessment of the Family Practice Residency Training Pilot Program;
- annual reports to the governor, lieutenant governor, and House speaker from the Residential Mortgage Fraud Task Force and from the comptroller on entities authorized to exercise eminent domain;
- quarterly activities reports from the Pollution Prevention Advisory Committee to the TCEQ;

- annual reports to the governor and LBB on the telephone collection program; and
- reports each fiscal quarter to the LBB on the financial status of the petroleum storage tank remediation account.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES:

A companion bill, HB 1885 by Price, was referred to the House Appropriations Budget Transparency and Reform subcommittee on March 29.