

- SUBJECT:** Prohibiting use of state money to settle certain sexual harassment claims
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson, Smithee
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michelle Davis, Convention of States; Bill Kelly, Mayor's Office City of Houston; and six individuals)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that a fund established by the U.S. Congress used taxpayer dollars to settle claims of sexual harassment or inappropriate workplace conduct committed by members of Congress. Some have suggested that this is an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars and that the state should prohibit such a fund from being created in Texas to pay claims against individuals serving in state government.
- DIGEST:** HB 1804 would prohibit the Legislature from appropriating money and a state agency from using appropriated money to settle or pay a sexual harassment claim made against a person who:
- was an elected member of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government;
 - was appointed by the governor to serve as a member of a department, commission, board, or other public office within any branch of state government; or
 - served as staff for any of the persons described above.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.