

SUBJECT: Revising certain state agency reporting requirements

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Metcalf, Shaheen, Slawson, Smithee

0 nays

2 absent — Lucio, Raymond

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 9 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Daniel Dillon and Rishi Sawhney, Health and Human Services Commission)

BACKGROUND: In recent years, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has conducted a biennial review of the usefulness of reports submitted by a state agency to other agencies. Calls have been made to implement TSLAC's recommendations to revise or repeal certain statutory reporting requirements in an effort to reduce the volume of reports and improve their usefulness while continuing to protect the public interest and ensure government accountability.

DIGEST: CSSB 800 would revise requirements related to certain state agency reports, including by changing report frequency from annual to biennial, reducing the number of recipients, and imposing or altering deadlines. The bill also would repeal certain other required reports as specified in the bill.

The bill would require that information regarding allegations of human trafficking submitted to the attorney general by an applicable law enforcement agency or attorney's office in certain counties or by the

Department of Public Safety be reported in the manner and form prescribed by the attorney general. The bill would allow, rather than require, the attorney general to enter into a contract with a university for the university to assist in the collection and analysis of such information. A district or county court at law would have to provide a copy of its monthly report on the number of cases filed for human trafficking and prostitution offenses to the attorney general.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.