

SUBJECT: Directing payment of certain claims against the state to the recipients

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 26 ayes — Bonnen, M. González, Allison, C. Bell, Bryant, DeAyala, Gates, Gervin-Hawkins, Howard, Isaac, Jetton, Martinez, Martinez Fischer, Morrison, Orr, Ortega, Rose, Spiller, Stucky, Tepper, Thimesch, E. Thompson, Toth, VanDeaver, Walle, Wu

0 nays

1 absent — Jarvis Johnson

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dolores Fojtasek, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that additional appropriations are needed to ensure the state fulfills its responsibility to pay its outstanding claims.

DIGEST: HB 4041 would appropriate certain amounts for payment of itemized claims and judgements, plus any interest, against the State of Texas to be paid out of:

- the general revenue fund;
- the state technology and instructional materials fund;
- the state highway fund; and
- the veterans financial assistance program fund.

Before the money could be paid, the bill would require that the claim be verified by the administrator of the fund against which the claim was to be charged. The claim also would have to be approved by the attorney

general and the comptroller of public accounts. Each claim would be required to contain the reason for the claim as well as certain information established in the bill depending on the type of claim.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023. As soon as possible after the effective date, the comptroller would be directed to issue and mail or deliver warrants on the state treasury in favor of the entities named in the claims.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of \$14,514,290 to general revenue related funds through the biennium ending August 31, 2025.