

SUBJECT:	Requiring studies of buildings and facilities owned or leased by the state
COMMITTEE:	State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	12 ayes — Hunter, Hernandez, Anchía, Dean, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Raymond, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller, Turner  0 nays  1 absent — S. Thompson
SENATE VOTE:	On final passage (April 20) — 30 - 1
WITNESSES:	For — Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Kenneth Flippin, TEXAS Chapter US Green Building Council; Rod Bordelon, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Lucy Trainor)  Against — None  On — ( <i>Registered, but did not testify</i> : Shawn Hall Lecuona, Almighty)
BACKGROUND:	Concerns have been raised that due to temporary remote work policies adopted by state agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic, some state office buildings may be not be fully occupied. Some have suggested that the Legislature should have information about the occupational statuses, capacities, and costs of state office buildings.
DIGEST:	SB 1119 would require the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), every six years, to study and report to the Legislature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how much money the state was spending on leased space for state agencies;</li><li>• the possibilities of personnel out of leased space into existing state-owned space;</li><li>• any efficiencies or cost savings that could be achieved by consolidating personnel and resources into existing state-owned</li></ul>

- space, or if no state-owned space was available, into existing leased space;
- the impact of any such consolidation on the state's insurable assets; and
- the potential benefits of maintaining a comprehensive, regularly updated database of all buildings and facilities owned, leased, or otherwise occupied by the state.

SB 1119 would also require LBB to conduct an interim study on the buildings and facilities owned, leased, or otherwise occupied by the state and develop a statewide strategy to ensure that the buildings and facilities were adequately utilized. LBB would collect information required by the bill from each state agency and institution of higher education that had charge and control of a building or facility and require each agency and institution to submit the information by a date prescribed by the board. The bill would prescribe the information to be collected for each building or facility, including information related to square footage, occupancy, and utility expenses.

On LBB's request, the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) would be required to provide certain clarifying information, including information on buildings that housed multiple state agencies. On request by TFC or the State Office of Risk Management, a state agency would be required to provide its telework policies. TFC and the State Office of Risk Management would be required to coordinate to reduce duplication of efforts.

By June 1, 2024, LBB or a state agency designated by the board would have to consolidate information collected under the interim study and enter the information into a single database accessible to members of the Legislature or their designees and the executive heads of state agencies or higher education institutions or their designees. LBB would have to conduct the study and report findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than September 1, 2024.

LBB, the State Office of Risk Management, and TFC would be required

to produce maps identifying the locations of the buildings and facilities owned, leased, or otherwise occupied by state agencies and institutions of higher education in the state. The information collected and produced for the interim study would be exempt from disclosure under certain provisions of the Government Code and the Labor Code. LBB could consolidate the study and report with any report required of the board regarding the allocation and use of space by state agencies.

Based on the studies required by SB 1119, each state agency would be required to identify opportunities for the consolidation of personnel and resources into state-owned space, or if state-owned space was not available, into space leased by the state.

SB 1119 would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023, and would expire September 1, 2025.