

SUBJECT: Revising reporting requirements for certain state payments

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Hunter, Dean, Geren, Guillen, Metcalf, Raymond, Slawson, Smithee, Spiller, S. Thompson, Turner

0 nays

2 absent — Hernandez, Anchía

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (April 3) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jen Crownover, Comal County (Commissioner); Cindy Irwin, Hutchinson County; Dorothy Ann Compton)

On — Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Korry Castillo, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (*Registered, but did not testify*: Clarisse Roquemore, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 2115.002 authorizes the comptroller to contract with consultants to conduct recovery audits of payments made by state agencies to vendors to detect and recover overpayments to the vendors.

Some have suggested that changes are needed to align provisions setting out reporting requirements for state overpayment recovery audits with previous changes to statute regarding the current statewide recovery audit program.

DIGEST: SB 987 would eliminate the requirement for the comptroller to provide copies of reports received from a consultant under Government Code sec. 2115.002 to the governor, the state auditor's office, and the Legislative

Budget Board, and would instead require the comptroller to issue to those entities the comptroller's own report summarizing activities conducted by a consultant pursuant to a completed overpayment recovery audit. The comptroller would only be required to issue a report if such an audit was completed in the preceding state fiscal year.

Additionally, rather than requiring the comptroller to provide certain county tax information to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), SB 987 would authorize DSHS to require counties to provide the information directly. The bill would specify that the required information was for the purpose of determining eligibility for state assistance under the Act. DSHS would be required to prescribe the manner in which a county had to provide the information.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.