

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3361 JRD-D

H.B. 1016
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State Affairs
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, state agencies are often required to send paper copies of their reports to each member of the legislature, upon completion of new reports. While this system has ensured that legislators are provided with thorough information, it involves unnecessary expenditure of human and physical resources. Reports covering issues that an individual legislator does not encounter in his or her official capacity may simply be thrown away or recycled soon after receipt. H.B. 1016 would authorize state agencies to first make reports available to the legislature via the Internet, and then send paper copies to legislative members only upon request.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1016 authorizes state agencies to send reports to the legislature via the Internet, and then send paper copies upon request.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 2052A, Government Code, by adding Section 2052.0021, as follows:

Sec. 2052.0021. DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS TO LEGISLATORS. (a) Defines “state agency.”

(b) Authorizes a state agency report required by law to be made available to members of the legislature only in accordance with this section, notwithstanding other law.

(c) Requires a state agency to make each report required by law available to members of the legislature in an electronic format determined by the Texas Legislature Council. Requires the state agency to promptly send a suitable printed copy of the report to a member of the legislature at the request of the member.

(d) Requires the state agency to send written notice to each member of the legislature that the report is available, at the time a report required by law is ready for distribution outside the state agency. Requires the state agency to send the notice by mail or, if it is acceptable to the member, electronically. Requires the notice to briefly describe the subject matter of the report and state the manner in which the member may obtain the report electronically, and that the state agency will send a printed copy of the report to the member at the request of the member.

(e) Provides that this section does not affect the duty of a state agency to directly send a printed copy of a report to an officer or committee of the legislature if other law specifically requires that the report be sent to that officer or committee, and the state agency is not required to comply with this section before sending the report to that officer or committee.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.