

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3754 JJT-D

H.B. 1895
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State Affairs
5/4/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the Department of Information Resources (DIR) has contracts with major software publishers allowing state agencies to purchase licenses at a significant discount. An agency that purchases one license from the contract enjoys the same price as an agency that purchases 100. DIR contracts offer a 39 percent discount over market price, and the state could realize an even deeper discount by requiring agencies to purchase all software through the contract to increase the volume of licenses and decrease the total cost to the state. H.B. 1895 creates provisions for the management of software and software licenses by state agencies.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1895 creates provisions for the management of software and software licenses by state agencies.

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 2054F, Government Code, by adding Sections 2054.121 and 2054.122, as follows:

Sec. 2054.121. STATE AGENCY SOFTWARE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TRAINING. Requires certain entities to create an interagency panel (panel) of representatives to develop and establish a training program to assist state agencies in certain software-related matters. Requires the cooperation of each state agency in the evaluation of software-related needs, and the donation of agency resources, as required. Sets forth required initial priorities for the panel. Requires the panel to begin to conduct training programs in software management for employees and officers of state agencies. Authorizes the panel to schedule a training program for an agency, under certain conditions. Requires the cooperation of each state agency regarding the training program and the provision of agency resources.

Sec. 2054.122. STATE AGENCY SOFTWARE LICENSE AUDIT. Requires each state agency to perform a biennial audit of software licenses for software installed in the agency's desktop and portable computers. Sets forth requirements for the report. Requires an agency to take certain actions when it makes a certain determination regarding inefficiency. Requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to compile audit results into a report. Requires the report to summarize the savings realized by the software audits under this chapter. Requires DIR to submit the report in conjunction with the appropriations request.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 2157A, Government Code, by adding Section 2157.006, as follows:

Sec. 2157.006. SOFTWARE ENTERPRISE OR SITE LICENSES. Requires the General Services Commission (GSC) to negotiate with software vendors a certain enterprise license or site license for software commonly used by state agencies, or for certain conditions which incur unnecessary expenses for licenses related to single computers. Authorizes a state agency to inquire whether previous GSC negotiations could reduce the agency's license expenses. Authorizes the agency to purchase a software license by another method, under certain conditions.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.