

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 1375
By: Shapleigh
Border Affairs - Special
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, with the rapid expansion of growth in commerce along the U.S. and Mexico border, traffic congestion at the border crossings has become severe. This congestion delays the shipment of raw materials and finished goods, hampers commerce, curtails growth of the Texas and Mexican economies, and contributes to air pollution. While a number of factors are responsible for congestion at border crossings, government bureaucracy is a large part of the problem. There are a large number of state and federal agencies with a presence at border crossings, with each agency having its own rules and procedures, and rarely coordinating with other governmental agencies present. This bill would require the comptroller of public accounts to conduct a study of state government functions involving regulation of commerce and detection and prevention of crime at border crossings.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1375 requires the comptroller of public accounts to conduct a study of state government functions involving regulation of commerce and detection and prevention of crime at border crossings.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Requires the comptroller of public accounts (comptroller) to conduct a study of movement of commercial vehicles across the border between this state and Mexico to determine how separation of state government functions involving regulation of commerce from functions involving detection and prevention of crime would reduce congestion and enhance the effective movement of these vehicles. Requires the comptroller to develop recommendations for the manner of accomplishing this separation and a model for the continuing independent operation of those functions. Requires the comptroller to submit the study results and the comptroller's recommendations and model to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives, before January 1, 2001.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.