

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R12519 DWS-F

C.S.S.B. 1375  
By: Shapleigh  
Border Affairs - Special  
4/18/1999  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **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, C.S.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. Authorizes the comptroller, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to consult, exchange information not confidential under the law of this state, and otherwise work jointly with relevant agencies of federal, state, or local government to the extent the comptroller considers appropriate for purposes of this Act. 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.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

#### SECTION 1.

Adds a new Subsection (b), to authorize the comptroller, in cooperation with the office of the governor, to consult, exchange information not confidential under the law of this state, and otherwise work jointly with relevant agencies of federal, state, or local government to the extent the comptroller considers appropriate for purposes of this Act. Redesignates original Subsection (b) as Subsection (c).