

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3482 JJT-D

S.B. 1720
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Finance
4/8/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the State of Texas is in need of the consolidation of state agency revenue processing and cash management. S.B. 1720 would set forth provisions for the centralization of certain state agency revenue and cash processing functions.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1720 sets forth provisions for the centralization of certain state agency revenue and cash processing functions.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the comptroller of public accounts in SECTION 1 (Section 403.355, Chapter 403N, Government Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 403, Government Code, by adding Subchapter N, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. CENTRALIZATION OF STATE AGENCY REVENUE AND CASH PROCESSING

Sec. 403.351. DEFINITION. Defines “state agency.”

Sec. 403.352. EVALUATION OF REVENUE PROCESSING FUNCTIONS. Requires the comptroller of public accounts (comptroller) to evaluate the revenue processing and cash processing functions of state agencies that collect revenue and that have a volume of monetary transactions great enough that a system to centrally process any part of the transactions is likely to realize cost savings to the state. Requires the controller to make certain determinations. Requires the comptroller to consider any practical option for certain processing of the state agency’s monetary transactions or information related to the transactions, including certain processing methods of a state agency’s monetary transactions or information related to transactions.

Sec. 403.353. COOPERATION BY STATE AGENCIES. Requires any department, commission, board, office, or other agency in the executive or legislative branch of state government created by the constitution or a statute of this state (state agency) to fully cooperate with the comptroller in making an evaluation or implementing a plan under this section. Requires a state agency to share with the comptroller any relevant information at no cost.

Sec. 403.354. CENTRALIZATION OR REDESIGN OF REVENUE PROCESSING. Requires the comptroller and the agency to develop and implement a plan for an agency to adopt technology and business practices the comptroller recommends under this section, if the comptroller determines that changing a state agency’s system of processing monetary transactions is likely to result in a significant net savings to the state. Authorizes the plan to include the comptroller’s assuming responsibility for processing the agency’s monetary transactions or related information as part of a central processing program for state agency monetary transactions. Requires the agency to retain responsibility for records management, enforcement, and delivery of services, if a plan results in the comptroller’s assumption of a state agency’s functions.

Sec. 403.355. RULES. Authorizes the comptroller, by rule, to establish payment requirements for any state agency monetary transaction processed by the comptroller or a central processing program the comptroller establishes, including rules regarding payment due dates; postmark dates on payments made by mail; or standard forms or methods of payment.

Sec. 403.356. RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS. Authorizes the comptroller to recommend changes to statutes or agency rules necessary to reduce costs that the state incurs for state agency monetary transactions. Requires the comptroller to report to the legislature the estimated reduction in an agency's budget and net savings to the state expected from changes in a state agency's processing of monetary transactions or related information under a plan developed under this subchapter. Requires the report to be made together with the comptroller's legislative appropriations request.

SECTION 2. Requires the comptroller, on the effective date of this Act, to begin an evaluation, under Subchapter N, Government Code, as added by this Act, of the processing of driver's license fee payments by the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS). Requires the comptroller and DPS to develop and implement a plan to make the comptroller's recommended changes in the then current fiscal year, if the comptroller determines that changes in the processing of those payments would reduce costs to the state.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.