

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3453 MLS-D

S.B. 803
By: Ellis
State Affairs
4/18/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, of Texas' 170 million acres of land, state agencies own 873,000 acres, worth over \$1.6 billion. The most recent General Land Office appraisal determined that 25,633 acres of agency lands, worth \$652,710,000, was being substantially underused. State agency-owned lands are technically owned by the citizens of Texas, not by individual agencies. However, the agencies have no obligation to sell or lease the underused property, nor do they have an obligation to justify failure to comply with General Land Office recommendations regarding land transactions. This bill would require state agencies to submit certain reports regarding agency property.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 803 requires state agencies to submit certain reports regarding agency property, and authorizes them to comment on a draft report if the agency is the subject of such a report.

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 Sections 31.153(a) and (b), Natural Resources Code, to require a state agency to provide the asset management division of the General Land Office (division) with a report including the agency's total acreage, by a certain deadline. Creates a deadline for the record to be submitted to the division, rather than on the request of the division. Adds information required to be in the record, including the fair market value of the property, and a description of state procedures for selling or leasing the property. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 31.157(b) and (c), Natural Resources Code, to authorize certain agencies that own or hold trust property to make certain comments regarding a draft report. Requires the Commissioner of the General Land Office to issue a final report incorporating all comments received from any state agency. Sets forth information required to be in the report.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.