

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R3097 JSA-D

S.B. 571
By: Shapleigh
Government Organization
3/21/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the comptroller's office conducts Texas School Performance Reviews (performance reviews) to improve the operational efficiency of public school districts. Sixty-seven reviews have been completed, resulting in improved operations, greater accountability, and a significant savings to taxpayers throughout the state. As proposed, S.B. 571 authorizes the comptroller to conduct performance reviews of institutions of higher education, including community colleges and four-year universities and colleges. A performance review may be initiated by the comptroller, by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, at the request of the president of the institution, or by a resolution adopted by a majority of the governing board of the institution, and such a review must include the institution's fiscal operations, management, student services, and curriculum.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 403.020, Government Code, as follows:

Sec. 403.020. New heading: PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a) Provides that in this section "general academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(b) Authorizes the comptroller of public accounts of the State of Texas (comptroller) to periodically review the effectiveness and efficiency of the budgets and operation of school districts and general academic teaching institutions. Redesignated from Subsection (a).

(c) Created from existing text of Subsection (a). Authorizes a review of a general academic teaching institution to be initiated by the comptroller or by the request of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or of the institution. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

(d) Created from existing text. Authorizes a review to be initiated by a general academic teaching institution only at the request of the president of the institution or by a resolution adopted by a majority of the governing board of the institution.

(e) Redesignated from Subsection (b). Makes conforming changes.

(f) Requires a review of a general academic teaching institution under this section to include review of the institution's fiscal operations, management, student services, and curriculum.

(g) Redesignated from Subsection (c). Requires the comptroller to perform certain acts. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.