



## Bill Status Report

Updated: May 3, 2011

### BILLS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT

#### Agency Operations

- HB 176** (Jackson, Jim) provides that state agencies are not required to provide documents or website content in languages other than English. (Action pending House State Affairs 4-13-11)
- HB 608** (Zerwas) requires agencies to annually submit a report of cost of providing services or benefits to undocumented immigrants; and comptroller to provide a report to each legislature. (Reported favorably from House State Affairs 4-28-11) **HB 21** (Riddle) Similar. (Pending, House Appropriations 4-28-11)
- HB 682** (Brown, Fred) requires agencies to contract with a private entity to lease advertising space on the agency's website. DIR to develop a standard contract for leasing advertising space that requires compliance with DIR rules re: content, composition and requirement for advertisements to be related to the purpose of the agency. Allows the leasing entity to retain administrative fees and remit remainder to the state general revenue fund. (Passed House; referred to Senate Government Organization Committee 4-20-11)
- HB 726** (Sheffield) requires agencies to provide information about publications to legislators electronically rather than by mail, and to provide reports to legislators only if required. (Passed House, Action pending Senate Administration Committee 5-02-11)
- HB 1553** (Larson) requires agencies, nonprofits, etc. to identify citizenship before providing services; determine the cost of providing services to foreign citizens; provide information to comptroller. Requires Comptroller to provide report to Leadership & request reimbursement from foreign countries. Prohibits agencies from receiving appropriated funds unless complying with provisions. (Action pending House State Affairs 4-13-11)
- HB 1655** (Davis, Yvonne) requires agencies to promote purchase of goods manufactured, produced or grown in Texas or offered by Texas bidders and to give preference to such items unless the agency determines that such items are not reasonably available in sufficient quantities. (Action pending House State Affairs 4-13-11)
- HB 1850** (Elkins) requires proposed rules to be reviewed and approved by the standing committee of the House and Senate before adoption. (Action pending House State Affairs Committee 3-30-11)
- HB 2977** (Hunter) prohibits members of a governmental body from transmitting electronic communications during a public meeting of the body. (Action pending House State Affairs Committee 4-28-11)

#### Open Government

- SB 1571** (Watson) requires a corporation, business entity, or nonprofit that performs a public function, provides research or consulting services, or conducts a study at the request of a government body to comply with the Public Information Act, and requires contracts between an agency and those entities to include such requirements. (Voted favorably from Senate Select Committee on Open Government 4-28-11)
- SB 1638** (Davis, Wendy) allows employees to withhold emergency contact information from release. (Passed Senate; referred to House State Affairs 4-29-11)
- SB 1826** (Gallegos) modifies provisions of the Public Information Act to include email, letter or other written communications in the term "deliberation" when such communications originate from a member of the governmental body, are circulated among a quorum of members, and concern an issue within the body's jurisdiction. (Action pending in Senate Select Committee on Open Government 4-28-11)
- SB 375** (Wentworth) & **HB 1044** (Solomons) modifies the Public Information Act to provide that date of birth of state employees is not exempt from release unless included in excepted information elsewhere within the Act. (SB 375 Passed Senate; referred to House State Affairs 4-26-11; HB 1044 Action pending in House State Affairs 4/13/11)

## Measures Impacting State Employees

**HB 2720** (Pitts) allows state agencies to require an employee to participate in involuntary furlough program without pay in order to balance the agency's budget. Employee continues to accrue service credit, vacation and sick leave and participate in the group insurance plan. The employee receives a salary during the furlough for the employee contribution to the retirement fund and for health insurance coverage selected by the employee. (Pending, House Appropriations Committee 4-7-11)

**HB 2954** (Cain) proposes to eliminate longevity pay for state employees; provides for merit pay; limits an agency to not more than \$200 per FTE yearly for merit pay; limits merit pay awards to not more than 10% of agency total and not more than 25% of an employee's base pay. (Hearing cancelled House Appropriations Committee 4-28-11)

**HB 3168** (Callegari) Substitute removes section that eliminates longevity pay for state employees; (Substitute voted favorably from House Government Efficiency and Reform Committee 4-27-11)

**HB 3373** (Murphy) limits state contribution to 90% of the cost of group benefit plan for a spouse who participates in lieu of participating in another health benefit to which the spouse is eligible. (Vote failed House Pensions/Investments/ Financial Services Committee 4-29-11)

**HB 3496** (Darby) authorizes ERS to develop "health reimbursement arrangements" for retirees who are covered by Medicare that can pay cost of supplemental insurance or medical care. (Referred to House Pensions/Investments/ Financial Services Committee 3-22-11)

**HB 3801** (Davis, Sarah) allows employees to request withholding of personal cell phone number, email addresses and date of birth. (Pending House State Affairs 4-13-11)

**SB 1664** (Duncan) modifies "Rule of 80" to require 10 years of service (currently 5) for employees hired after 9-1-11. (Placed on Senate Intent Calendar 5-03-11)

### **HB 1 & SB 1**

- No cost-of-living increase for state employees
- No mandated furloughs or pay reductions
- Possible changes to employee benefits
  - SB 1 would not require any changes to benefits, co-pays or deductibles. HB 1 would require changes.
  - Opt Out Incentive – Adds \$60 incentive for employees to opt out of Group Benefits Plan.
  - Tiered Coinsurance – HB 1 directs ERS to implement a *tiered coinsurance plan* to add additional tiers of coinsurance at a 5 percent rate and a 2 percent rate on higher cost medical claims in order to share costs of and reduce utilization of higher cost medical procedures.
  - HB 1 & SB 1 include a Tobacco User Premium Surcharge (Contingent on passage of legislation) for a \$30/month tobacco use surcharge for tobacco users.

### Other Items

**HB 1579** (Brown, Fred) and **HB 1599** (Rodriquez) allow non-profit organizations to access prison made articles and products (HB 1579: Hearing, House State Affairs 4-6-11; HB 1599: Action pending, House Corrections 3-30-11)

**HB 1851** (Reynolds) requires agencies to give 1st preference to HUBs, 2nd preference to Texas vendors, unless bids are more than 105% of the bid from vendors from other states; and other provisions. (Pending State Affairs 3-30-11)

**HB 2550** (Elkins) proposes to abolish the Sunset Commission. (Referred to House State Affairs 3-15-11)

**Various Bills** allow agencies to reduce expenses by consolidating reports, contracting with another agency to carryout duties; using electronic means for billing, receipts, etc; adopting fees for performing functions; authorizing comptroller to use electronic deposits or **pay cards** for salary, travel reimbursement, retiree annuities, etc.