

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 29
By: Luna
Appropriations
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In the 78th Regular Session, HB 1606 was passed, which included new ethics requirements for elected officials and permitted the Texas Ethics Commission to increase fees for lobbyist registration. The Texas Ethics Commission is charged with implementing the new provisions of HB 1606, however the computer system that the Agency utilizes is need of modernization and maintenance.

HB 29 appropriates the additional revenue generated from increased lobbyist registration fees, in an amount not to exceed \$267,400 for the FY04-05 biennium, to the Texas Ethics Commission for the development and implementation of an electronic filing system for lobbyists.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

HB 29 appropriates additional revenue generated by the increase in the amount of lobbyist registration fees under Section 305.0064, Government Code, as added by Chapter 249, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, to the Texas Ethics Commission, in an amount not to exceed \$267,400, for the development and implementation of the electronic filing system for lobbyists.

HB 29 mandates that any state employee benefit costs incurred during the state fiscal biennium in connection with the administration of Section 305.0064, Government Code, as added by Chapter 249, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, shall be paid out of the appropriations made in Subsection (a) and shall be allocated to the appropriate employee benefit appropriation items.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediate effect if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house. If this act does not receive the vote for immediate effect, the act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.