

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1614
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Economic Development
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, no federal law specifically addresses the disclosure of genetic information, leaving the issue to the states. Without adequate safeguards, genetic information could be misused. As proposed, S.B. 1614 provides that a person who discloses genetic information will be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 and authorizes the attorney general to bring an action in the name of the state to recover the penalty, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

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

SB 1614 amends Section 21.403, Labor Code, by adding Subsection (e) to provide that a person who discloses genetic information in violation of this section is liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000. Authorizes the attorney general to bring an action in the name of the state to recover the penalty, plus reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

SB 1614 amends Section 3, Article 9032, Revised Statutes, by adding Subsection (e) to provide that a person who discloses genetic information in violation of this section is liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000. Authorizes the attorney general to bring an action in the name of the state to recover the penalty, plus reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.