

By: Hilderbran

H.B. No. 2590

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the decentralization of certain state agencies and to
3 the location of the headquarters of certain state agencies.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "state agency" means an
6 office, institution, or other agency that is in the executive
7 branch of state government, has authority that is not limited to a
8 geographical portion of the state, and was created by the
9 constitution or a statute of this state, but does not include an
10 institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003,
11 Education Code.

12 SECTION 2. REVIEW. Not later than September 1, 2004, the
13 board or other governing body of a state agency shall conduct a
14 thorough review of the agency's organizational structure to
15 identify:

16 (1) programs, functions, and administration of the
17 agency that are unnecessarily or inappropriately consolidated in a
18 certain geographic area of the state;

19 (2) whether the state agency's headquarters is
20 unnecessarily or inappropriately located in the Austin area; and

21 (3) any specific barriers to:

22 (A) decentralizing the agency's programs,
23 functions, and administration by distributing them throughout a
24 greater geographic portion of the state; or

1 (B) moving the agency's headquarters from the
2 Austin area to a different geographic area of the state.

3 SECTION 3. RECOMMENDATIONS. Based on information
4 identified in a review under Section 2 of this Act, the board or
5 other governing body of a state agency shall, not later than October
6 1, 2004, develop specific recommendations regarding:

7 (1) whether the organizational structure of the agency
8 should be decentralized throughout a greater geographic portion of
9 the state; and

10 (2) whether the headquarters of the agency should be
11 moved from the Austin area to a different geographic area of the
12 state.

13 SECTION 4. PLAN. Not later than December 1, 2004, if a
14 decentralization or move is recommended under Section 3 of this Act
15 by the board or other governing body of a state agency, the state
16 agency shall develop an appropriate plan to:

17 (1) decentralize the organizational structure of the
18 agency throughout a greater geographic portion of the state or move
19 the headquarters of the agency from the Austin area to a different
20 geographic area of the state; and

21 (2) modify the agency's programs, policies,
22 procedures, and administration as necessary to facilitate the
23 decentralization or move.

24 SECTION 5. TRANSITION. Not later than January 1, 2005, a
25 state agency shall submit to the 79th Legislature a report
26 regarding the results of a review under Section 2 of this Act, any
27 recommendations issued under Section 3 of this Act, and any plan

1 developed by the board or other governing body of the state agency
2 under Section 4 of this Act. A report must include the state
3 agency's recommendations for any statutory changes required to
4 facilitate a recommended decentralization or move or a modification
5 of the agency's programs, policies, procedures, or administration
6 that is necessary to facilitate the recommended decentralization or
7 move.

8 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; EXPIRATION. (a) This Act takes
9 effect September 1, 2003.

10 (b) This Act expires September 1, 2005.