

By: Casteel

H.B. No. 2947

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to cost control and accountability in the decentralization of state programs and services.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 772, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 772.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 772.011. DECENTRALIZATION OF STATE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. (a) State agencies that decentralize programs or services to public entities or nonprofit organizations in a region or regions shall consult with the governing bodies of regional planning commissions established by counties and municipalities in such region or regions.

(b) The geographic state planning regions established by the governor pursuant to Chapter 391, Local Government Code, or combinations thereof, shall be used as the geographic area for regional decentralization of state programs or services.

(c) State agencies, in planning for the regional decentralization of services, shall consider the use of regional planning commissions established by counties and municipalities:

(1) to achieve efficiencies through shared costs for executive management, administration, financial accounting and reporting, sharing of facilities and equipment, data services, and audit costs;

(2) to improve the planning, coordination, and

1 delivery of services by co-locating programs and services;

2 (3) to increase accountability and local control by  
3 placing programs and services under the oversight of the local  
4 elected officials and citizens who constitute the governing bodies  
5 of regional planning commissions; and

6 (4) to improve financial oversight through the  
7 comprehensive auditing and reporting required of regional planning  
8 commissions.

9 (d) Any proposed or final rule, order, or guide adopted by a  
10 state agency must include a statement as to how the agency complied  
11 with the provisions of this section.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.