

By: Pickett

H.B. No. 3443

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to statutory authority for certain governmental entities  
3 to take certain actions to permit the legislature to reduce  
4 appropriations to those agencies.

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

6 SECTION 1. The amounts required by statute for entities  
7 that receive state funds under Article VII of the General  
8 Appropriations Act may be reduced or eliminated in order to achieve  
9 a balanced budget.

10 SECTION 2. (a) This section applies to the following state  
11 agencies:

- 12 (1) the Texas Aerospace Commission;
- 13 (2) the Texas Department of Economic Development;
- 14 (3) the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
15 Affairs;
- 16 (4) the Texas Lottery Commission;
- 17 (5) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;
- 18 (6) the Texas Department of Transportation; and
- 19 (7) the Texas Workforce Commission.

20 (b) Notwithstanding any other statute of this state, each  
21 state agency to which this section applies is authorized to reduce  
22 expenditures by:

- 23 (1) consolidating any reports or publications the  
24 agency is required to make and filing or delivering any of those

1 reports or publications exclusively by electronic means;

2 (2) extending the effective period of any license,  
3 permit, or registration the agency grants or administers;

4 (3) entering into a contract with another governmental  
5 entity or with a private vendor to carry out any of the agency's  
6 duties;

7 (4) adopting additional eligibility requirements for  
8 persons who receive benefits under any law the agency administers  
9 to ensure that those benefits are received by the most deserving  
10 persons consistent with the purposes for which the benefits are  
11 provided;

12 (5) providing that any communication between the  
13 agency and another person and any document required to be delivered  
14 to or by the agency, including any application, notice, billing  
15 statement, receipt, or certificate, may be made or delivered by  
16 electronic mail or through the Internet; and

17 (6) adopting and collecting fees or charges to cover  
18 any costs the agency incurs in performing its lawful functions.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.