

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. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, the
7 legislature, in its discretion, may determine the amount of each
8 appropriation of state funds. The amounts required by statute for
9 entities that receive state funds under Article VII of the General
10 Appropriations Act may be reduced or eliminated in order to achieve
11 a balanced budget.

12 SECTION 2. (a) This section applies to the following state
13 agencies:

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

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

1 (1) consolidating any reports or publications the
2 agency is required to make and filing or delivering any of those
3 reports or publications exclusively by electronic means;

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

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

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

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

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

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