

1-1 By: Pickett (Senate Sponsor - Ogden) H.B. No. 3443
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2003;
1-3 May 12, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Finance;
1-4 May 23, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 13,
1-5 Nays 0; May 23, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to statutory authority for certain governmental entities
1-9 to take certain actions to permit the legislature to reduce
1-10 appropriations to those agencies.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. The amounts required by statute for entities
1-13 that receive state funds under Article VII of the General
1-14 Appropriations Act may be reduced or eliminated in order to achieve
1-15 a balanced budget.

1-16 SECTION 2. (a) This section applies to the following state
1-17 agencies:

- 1-18 (1) the Texas Aerospace Commission;
- 1-19 (2) the Texas Department of Economic Development;
- 1-20 (3) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
1-21 Affairs;
- 1-22 (4) the Texas Lottery Commission;
- 1-23 (5) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;
- 1-24 (6) the Texas Department of Transportation; and
- 1-25 (7) the Texas Workforce Commission.

1-26 (b) Notwithstanding any other statute of this state, each
1-27 state agency to which this section applies is authorized to reduce
1-28 expenditures by:

- 1-29 (1) consolidating any reports or publications the
1-30 agency is required to make and filing or delivering any of those
1-31 reports or publications exclusively by electronic means;
- 1-32 (2) extending the effective period of any license,
1-33 permit, or registration the agency grants or administers;
- 1-34 (3) entering into a contract with another governmental
1-35 entity or with a private vendor to carry out any of the agency's
1-36 duties;
- 1-37 (4) adopting additional eligibility requirements for
1-38 persons who receive benefits under any law the agency administers
1-39 to ensure that those benefits are received by the most deserving
1-40 persons consistent with the purposes for which the benefits are
1-41 provided;
- 1-42 (5) providing that any communication between the
1-43 agency and another person and any document required to be delivered
1-44 to or by the agency, including any application, notice, billing
1-45 statement, receipt, or certificate, may be made or delivered by
1-46 electronic mail or through the Internet; and
- 1-47 (6) adopting and collecting fees or charges to cover
1-48 any costs the agency incurs in performing its lawful functions.

1-49 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-50 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-51 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-52 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-53 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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