

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 5, 2003

TO: Honorable Robert Duncan, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

FROM: John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **SB1059** by Ellis, Rodney (Relating to corporate ethics and integrity; providing penalties.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill creates a corporate integrity unit at the Office of the Attorney General to assist district attorneys, county attorneys, state agencies with investigation, prosecution and administrative enforcement of corporate fraud investigations and other similar illegal activities and serve as a state clearinghouse for such information. The bill requires a contractor with a state contract in excess of \$25,000 to provide the contracting state agency with a certified audit and immediately disclose financial irregularities to the contracting state agency. The bill requires (a) state agencies that manage or invest state funds to adopt rules specifying standards of conduct for financial advisors or service providers who are not state employees, (b) the filing of annual financial statements by financial advisors or service providers, (c) the disclosure of relationships that might affect the advice or service provided, and (d) corporate officials must certify the information in financial statements of the corporation. Failure to report any financial irregularities is a class A misdemeanor and failure to submit a certified audit of the company's operations may result in a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000.

The bill adds (a) Section 402.0231 to the Government Code relating to the creation of a corporate integrity unit at the Office of the Attorney General, (b) Section 2252.904 to the Government Code relating to contracts with companies and financial statements, and (c) Chapter 2263 to the Government Code relating to ethics and disclosure requirements for outside financial advisors and service providers.

Initial rules must be adopted in time for the rules to take effect not later than January 1, 2004. The Act takes effect on September 1, 2003.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 302 Office of the Attorney General, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 307 Secretary of State, 308 State Auditor's Office, 323 Teacher Retirement System, 327 Employees Retirement System, 701 Central Education Agency

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