

By: Chisum

H.B. No. 2417

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to statutory authority for the legislature to make or  
3 reduce appropriations to certain governmental entities.

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

5 SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY. (a) Notwithstanding any  
6 statute to the contrary, the legislature, in its discretion, may  
7 determine the amount of each appropriation of state funds. The  
8 amounts required by statute for entities that receive state funds  
9 under Article VI of the General Appropriations Act, 79th  
10 Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, may be reduced or eliminated in  
11 order to achieve a balanced budget.

12 (b) This section expires September 1, 2007.

13 SECTION 2. ARTICLE VI AGENCY REDUCTION METHODS.

14 Notwithstanding any other statute of this state, each state agency  
15 that receives funds under Article VI of the General Appropriations  
16 Act, 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, is authorized to  
17 reduce expenditures by:

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

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

23 (3) entering into a contract with another governmental  
24 entity or with a private vendor to carry out any of the agency's

1 duties;

2 (4) providing that any communication between the  
3 agency and another person and any document required to be delivered  
4 to or by the agency, including any application, notice, billing  
5 statement, receipt, or certificate, may be made or delivered by  
6 electronic mail or through the Internet; and

7 (5) adopting and collecting fees or charges to cover  
8 any costs the agency incurs in performing its lawful functions.

9 SECTION 3. EROSION RESPONSE. Section 40.152, Natural  
10 Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as  
11 follows:

12 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a)(9), the legislature may  
13 appropriate to the General Land Office for erosion response  
14 projects under Subchapter H, Chapter 33, money from the fund in an  
15 amount that exceeds the amount of interest accruing to the fund  
16 annually.

17 SECTION 4. REPEALER. Section 1, Chapter 200, Acts of the  
18 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, is repealed.

19 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
20 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
21 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
22 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
23 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2005.