

By: Ogden

S.B. No. 1614

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

14 SECTION 2. (a) This section applies to the following state  
15 agencies:

16 (1) the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
17 Affairs;

18 (2) the Texas Lottery Commission;

19 (3) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;

20 (4) the Texas Department of Transportation; and

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

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

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 303, Labor Code, is amended by adding  
17 Section 303.007 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 303.007. PAYMENT OF PORTION OF TRAINING COSTS BY  
19 EMPLOYER. The commission may require an employer whose employees  
20 participate in a training program under this chapter to pay a  
21 portion, not to exceed 50 percent, of the costs of the training  
22 program in cash or cash equivalents. The public community or  
23 technical college or the Texas Engineering Extension Service, as  
24 appropriate, shall reimburse the employer for the amount of the  
25 costs of the training program paid by the employer in excess of the  
26 portion the commission requires the employer to pay under this  
27 section.

1           SECTION 4. Section 303.007, Labor Code, as added by this  
2 Act, applies only to training provided under Chapter 303, Labor  
3 Code, under a contract between the Texas Workforce Commission and a  
4 public community or technical college or the Texas Engineering  
5 Extension Service entered into on or after the effective date of  
6 this Act.

7           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.