

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1471
By: Gallegos
Land & Resource Management
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Regional planning commissions were originally established in part as a way to study and better plan for the development of regions throughout Texas. However, during the past couple of decades, regional planning commissions have been transformed into a convenient means through which federal and state funds are channeled. Some members of some regional planning commissions, generally governmental units that are comprised of smaller populations, have complained their areas have not received an appropriate share of attention or resources from the regional planning commissions.

S.B. 1471 would require the state auditor to conduct an audit of certain regional planning commissions and forward the report to the commissioners court of certain counties, and to certain other governing bodies upon request.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the opinion of the committee that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to any state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

S.B. 1471 requires, before June 1, 2010, the state auditor to audit a regional planning commission created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code, that includes a county with a population of 3.3 million or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census. The bill requires the cost of the audit to be paid for by the audited regional planning commission.

S.B. 1471 requires, on or before June 1, 2010, the state auditor to submit a report of such a required audit to the commissioners court of a county with a population of 3.3 million or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census, that is a member of such an audited regional planning commission; and to the governing body of any other political subdivision that is a member of such an audited regional planning commission, if the governing body requests a report from the state auditor.

The bill provides that these new provisions expire January 1, 2011.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the act does not receive the necessary vote, the act takes effect September 1, 2009.