

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 1762

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to improving state energy conservation, including through the use of thermostat settings.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 447, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 447.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 447.015. STATE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND EXPENDITURES DATABASE. The State Energy Conservation Office shall develop and maintain a database of state agency energy consumption and expenditures. The database must be designed to allow any agency to determine the agency's energy consumption and expenditures in each building occupied by the agency. The database may include the square footage occupied by a state agency in a building.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 2165, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2165.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 2165.010. THERMOSTAT SETTINGS IN STATE BUILDINGS. (a) A state agency or institution of higher education in charge and control of a state building shall adjust thermostat settings within industry standards for energy conservation, as determined by the United States Department of Energy, to achieve occupant comfort and to correspond to:

(1) seasonal temperature changes; and

(2) building occupancy schedules.

(b) This section does not apply to a building containing

1 temperature sensitive operations, including computer and
2 laboratory facilities and buildings in which populations live or
3 are served on a 24-hour basis.

4 SECTION 3. Section 388.005(e), Health and Safety Code, as
5 amended by Chapters 262 (S.B. 12) and 939 (H.B. 3693), Acts of the
6 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, is reenacted and amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (e) A political subdivision, institution of higher
9 education, or state agency annually shall report to the State
10 Energy Conservation Office, on forms provided by that office,
11 regarding the entity's efforts and progress under this section.
12 The report must include the entity's seasonal specific thermostat
13 settings and thermostat settings for nonpeak or off hours. The
14 State Energy Conservation Office shall provide assistance and
15 information to the entity to help the entity meet the goals set
16 under this section.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.