

By: Strama

H.B. No. 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to conducting a study to improve transparency in the  
3 state's budgeting process and electronic access to information  
4 about the state budget.

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

6 SECTION 1. STUDY. (a) The governor and the Legislative  
7 Budget Board jointly shall lead a collaborative study concerning  
8 improved transparency in the state's budgeting process and improved  
9 electronic access to information about the state budget.

10 (b) In addition to the governor and the Legislative Budget  
11 Board, the following state officers, agencies, and institutions  
12 each shall designate one or more appropriate representatives to  
13 participate in the study as a member of a study team:

- 14 (1) the comptroller;
- 15 (2) the Department of Information Resources;
- 16 (3) the Texas Legislative Council;
- 17 (4) the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs;

18 and

19 (5) any other state officer, agency, or institution  
20 invited by the governor or the Legislative Budget Board to  
21 participate in the study.

22 (c) The study team must generally address improving  
23 transparency and electronic access to information in connection  
24 with the process of developing the state's budget, the writing and

1 consideration by the legislature of the general appropriations  
2 bill, and the expenditure of appropriated funds by the agencies and  
3 institutions of state government. In particular, the study team  
4 must address:

5           (1) how to better provide to members of the public and  
6 decision-makers information and analysis about all types of state  
7 budgetary information, with an emphasis on providing useful  
8 information and analysis about the 25 state programs that account  
9 for the greatest amount of state expenditures;

10           (2) how to better provide members of the legislature,  
11 legislative staff, state agencies, members of the press, and  
12 members of the public timely electronic access in an open standards  
13 format to proposed riders, proposed line-item appropriations, and  
14 reports concerning the general appropriations bill throughout any  
15 session of the legislature in which the general appropriations bill  
16 is being considered for adoption; and

17           (3) any enhancements and additions to information  
18 technologies employed by the legislative and executive branches of  
19 state government that would be necessary to improve access and  
20 transparency in the manner recommended by the team.

21           (d) The comptroller and the Legislative Budget Board shall  
22 develop cost estimates for the study team's recommendations.

23           (e) The governor and the Legislative Budget Board shall  
24 report the results of the study, including the study team's  
25 recommendations and the comptroller's and Legislative Budget  
26 Board's cost estimates for the recommendations, to the lieutenant  
27 governor and each member of the legislature by June 1, 2010.

1 SECTION 2. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2011.

2 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September

3 1, 2009.