

By: Galindo, Elkins, Wray, et al.

H.B. No. 1743

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of a credit or charge card by certain state agencies to make certain purchases.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 402, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 402.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 402.011. PAYMENT FOR TRAVEL SERVICES WITH CREDIT OR CHARGE CARD. The attorney general by rule shall develop and implement a policy that encourages participation in a program administered by the comptroller relating to the use of a credit or charge card to pay for travel expenses.

SECTION 2. Section 403.023, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

(b-1) Except as provided by Subsection (b-2), if the comptroller adopts rules authorized under Subsection (b), the rules must:

(1) require a state agency in the executive branch of state government to use a credit or charge card to pay for all purchases unless the comptroller determines that another method of payment is more advantageous to the state; and

(2) prohibit an employee of a state agency in the executive branch of state government from using a personal credit or charge card to pay for the state agency's purchases.

(b-2) Subsection (b-1) does not apply to:

1 (1) an institution of higher education as defined by
2 Section 61.003, Education Code;

3 (2) the Health and Human Services Commission;

4 (3) a health and human services agency as defined by
5 Section 531.001;

6 (4) the office of the attorney general; or

7 (5) the office of the governor.

8 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 531.0175 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 531.0175. PAYMENT FOR TRAVEL SERVICES WITH CREDIT OR
11 CHARGE CARD. The executive commissioner by rule shall develop, and
12 the commission and each health and human services agency shall
13 implement, a policy that encourages participation in a program
14 administered by the comptroller relating to the use of a credit or
15 charge card to pay for travel expenses.

16 SECTION 4. Section 660.021, Government Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 660.021. RULES. (a) The comptroller shall adopt rules
19 for the effective and efficient administration of this chapter and
20 the travel provisions of the General Appropriations Act.

21 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the rules adopted
22 by the comptroller under this section must require that if a state
23 agency in the executive branch of state government participates in
24 a program administered by the comptroller that allows the agency to
25 use a credit or charge card to pay for travel expenses:

26 (1) the agency shall use the credit or charge card to
27 pay for travel expenses required for agency travel, unless the

1 comptroller determines that another method of payment is more
2 advantageous to the state; and

3 (2) an employee of the agency may not use the
4 employee's personal credit or charge card to pay for travel
5 expenses required for agency travel.

6 (c) Subsection (b) does not apply to:

7 (1) an institution of higher education as defined by
8 Section 61.003, Education Code;

9 (2) the Health and Human Services Commission;

10 (3) a health and human services agency as defined by
11 Section 531.001;

12 (4) the office of the attorney general; or

13 (5) the office of the governor.

14 SECTION 5. Subchapter B, Chapter 2171, Government Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 2171.0521 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 2171.0521. PAYMENT FOR TRAVEL SERVICES WITH CREDIT OR
17 CHARGE CARD. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), if a state
18 agency in the executive branch of state government participates in
19 a program administered by the comptroller that allows the agency to
20 use a credit or charge card to purchase travel services:

21 (1) the agency shall use the credit or charge card to
22 purchase travel services required for agency travel, unless the
23 comptroller determines that another method of purchase is more
24 advantageous to the state; and

25 (2) an employee of the agency may not use the
26 employee's personal credit or charge card to purchase travel
27 services required for agency travel.

1 (b) This section does not apply to:

2 (1) an institution of higher education as defined by
3 Section 61.003, Education Code;

4 (2) the Health and Human Services Commission;

5 (3) a health and human services agency as defined by
6 Section 531.001;

7 (4) the office of the attorney general; or

8 (5) the office of the governor.

9 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.