

By: Eltife

S.B. No. 883

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the applicability of certain unfunded mandates on political subdivisions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 320.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 320.001. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

(1) "Interagency work group" means the unfunded mandates interagency work group.

(2) "Mandate" [~~"mandate"~~] means a requirement made by a statute enacted by the legislature on or after January 1, 2015 [~~1997~~], that requires a political subdivision to establish, expand, or modify a duty or [~~an~~] activity in a way that requires the expenditure of revenue by the political subdivision that would not have been required in the absence of the statutory provision.

SECTION 2. Chapter 320, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 320.002, 320.003, and 320.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 320.002. UNFUNDED MANDATES INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP.

(a) The unfunded mandates interagency work group consists of:

(1) the state auditor;

(2) the director of the Legislative Budget Board;

(3) the comptroller;

(4) a senator appointed by the lieutenant governor;

and

1           (5) a member of the house of representatives appointed  
2 by the speaker of the house of representatives.

3           (b) A member of the interagency work group is not entitled  
4 to additional compensation for service on the work group.

5           (c) A member of the interagency work group may use any  
6 person employed by the member's agency to complete the member's work  
7 on the interagency work group.

8           (d) The members of the interagency work group may enter into  
9 an interagency memorandum of understanding regarding the  
10 completion of the work required by this chapter.

11           Sec. 320.003. ADVISORY LIST OF UNFUNDED MANDATES. (a) On  
12 or before the September 1 following a regular session of the  
13 legislature and on or before the 90th day after the last day of a  
14 special session of the legislature, the interagency work group  
15 shall publish an advisory list of mandates for which the  
16 legislature has not provided reimbursement under Subsection (b) and  
17 that were enacted by the legislature during that legislative  
18 session. By that same date the interagency work group shall:

19           (1) remove from the advisory list of mandates for a  
20 previous legislative session those mandates for which the  
21 legislature has provided reimbursement under Subsection (b), those  
22 that are no longer subject to reimbursement, and those that are no  
23 longer in effect; and

24           (2) add to the advisory list a mandate from a previous  
25 legislative session for which reimbursement was provided under  
26 Subsection (b) in the previous session but for which reimbursement  
27 was not provided in the most recent regular session or in any

1 subsequent special sessions.

2 (b) A mandate is considered to be a mandate for which the  
3 legislature has provided reimbursement if the legislature:

4 (1) by statute enacted by a record vote of two-thirds  
5 of the members elected to each house expressly provides that the  
6 mandate is not subject to reimbursement under this section; or

7 (2) appropriates or otherwise provides for the payment  
8 or reimbursement, from a source other than revenue of the political  
9 subdivision, of the costs incurred in the calendar year by the  
10 political subdivision in complying with the mandate.

11 (c) This section does not apply to a mandate:

12 (1) imposed by the legislature or a state agency to  
13 comply with a requirement of the Texas Constitution, federal law,  
14 or a court order or to maximize the receipt of federal funds by the  
15 state in areas such as education, health and human services, and  
16 criminal justice;

17 (2) approved by the voters of this state at a general  
18 election; or

19 (3) affecting employee pensions and benefits.

20 Sec. 320.004. APPLICABILITY OF MANDATES. (a) A political  
21 subdivision is only required to comply with a mandate for which the  
22 legislature has provided reimbursement under Section 320.003(b).

23 (b) For purposes of determining compliance with a mandate, a  
24 political subdivision may act in reliance on the advisory list of  
25 unfunded mandates published under Section 320.003(a).

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

S.B. No. 883

1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.