

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 1420

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to zero-based budgeting for state agencies as part of the sunset review process.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 325.007, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 325.007. AGENCY REPORT TO COMMISSION; ZERO-BASED BUDGET.

SECTION 2. Section 325.007, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) Before November 1 of the odd-numbered year before the year in which a state agency subject to this chapter is to be abolished, the agency shall present to the commission a zero-based budget for the state fiscal biennium that begins on the date the agency is scheduled to be abolished that contains:

(1) a description of the discrete activities the agency is charged with conducting or performing, together with a justification for each activity by reference to a statute or other legal authority;

(2) for each activity identified under Subdivision (1):

(A) a quantitative estimate of any adverse effects that reasonably may be expected to result if the activity were discontinued, together with a description of the methods by

1 which the adverse effects were estimated;

2 (B) an itemized account of expenditures required  
3 to maintain the activity at the minimum level of service or  
4 performance required by the statute or other legal authority,  
5 together with a concise statement of the quantity and quality of  
6 service or performance required at that minimum level; and

7 (C) an itemized account of expenditures required  
8 to maintain the activity at the current level of service or  
9 performance, together with a concise statement of the quantity and  
10 quality of service or performance provided at that current level;  
11 and

12 (3) a ranking of activities identified under  
13 Subdivision (1) that illustrates the relative importance of each  
14 activity to the overall goals and purposes of the agency at current  
15 service or performance levels.

16 (d) A state agency shall submit the zero-based budget  
17 required under Subsection (c) to the Legislative Budget Board as  
18 part of the agency's legislative appropriations request for the  
19 state fiscal biennium that begins on the date the agency is  
20 scheduled to be abolished.

21 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to  
22 agencies scheduled to be abolished on or after September 1, 2025, if  
23 not continued in accordance with Chapter 325, Government Code.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.