

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to efficiency audits of Operation Lone Star and other border security programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.056 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.056. EFFICIENCY AUDIT. (a) For purposes of this section, "efficiency audit" means an investigation of the implementation and administration of Operation Lone Star and other border security programs to examine fiscal management, efficiency of the use of resources, and the effectiveness of state efforts in achieving the border security goals of this state.

(b) In 2024 and every second year after that year, an external auditor selected under Subsection (e) shall conduct the efficiency audit required by this section.

(c) The department shall pay the costs associated with an efficiency audit required under this section using existing resources.

(d) The comptroller shall ensure that the external auditor conducts the efficiency audit in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(e) Not later than March 1 of the year in which an efficiency audit is required under this section, the comptroller shall select and contract with an external auditor to conduct the efficiency

1 audit.

2 (f) The external auditor shall be independent and not  
3 subject to direction from:

- 4 (1) the department;  
5 (2) the Texas Military Department; or  
6 (3) any other state agency subject to evaluation by  
7 the auditor for purposes of this section or that receives or spends  
8 money under the programs described by Subsection (a).

9 (g) The external auditor shall complete the audit not later  
10 than the 90th day after the date the auditor is selected.

11 (h) The Legislative Budget Board shall establish the scope  
12 of the efficiency audit and determine the areas of investigation  
13 for the audit, including:

14 (1) reviewing the resources dedicated to a program  
15 described by Subsection (a) to determine whether those resources:

16 (A) are being used effectively and efficiently to  
17 achieve desired program outcomes, including securing the border;  
18 and

19 (B) are not being used for purposes other than  
20 the intended goals of the applicable program;

21 (2) identifying cost savings or reallocations of  
22 resources; and

23 (3) reviewing governmental contracts and grants made  
24 related to border security programs.

25 (i) Not later than November 1 of the year an efficiency  
26 audit is conducted, the external auditor shall prepare and submit a  
27 report of the audit and recommendations for efficiency improvements

1 to the governor, the Legislative Budget Board, the state auditor,  
2 the comptroller, and the chairs of the house appropriations  
3 committee and the senate finance committee. The governor and the  
4 comptroller shall publish the report, recommendations, and full  
5 audit on the governor's and the comptroller's Internet websites.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.