A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the procedure by which the attorney general approves or

3 denies approval of a state agency contract for outside legal

4 services.

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

6   SECTION 1.   Section 402.0212, Government Code, is amended by

7 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

8   (a-1)   The attorney general shall approve or deny approval of

9 a contract for legal services described by Subsection (a) not later

10 than the 25th day after the date the contract is received by the

11 attorney general from the submitting state agency. If the attorney

12 general denies approval of the contract, the attorney general shall

13 provide the state agency that submitted the contract a written

14 explanation of the reason the attorney general denied approval of

15 the contract.

16   SECTION 2.   Section 825.203(c), Government Code, is amended

17 to read as follows:

18   (c) [The attorney general shall timely act on a request to

19 approve a contract for outside legal services under Section

20 402.0212.] If the attorney general denies the board's request for

21 approval of a contract for outside legal services,[÷

22   [(1) the attorney general shall provide the board with

23 the reason for the denial; and

24   [(2)] the board may select alternative outside legal

1

1 counsel, subject to approval by the attorney general in accordance
2 with this section and Section 402.0212.

3   SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
4 to a contract for legal services submitted for approval to the
5 attorney general on or after the effective date of this Act. A
6 contract submitted for approval to the attorney general before the
7 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect
8 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
9 continued in effect for that purpose.

10   SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.