

SUBJECT: Authorizing purchase of recycled or non-recycled products

COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Reform — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Callegari, Lucio, Cain, Frullo, Harper-Brown, Munoz, Zedler
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Michael Flasher, Domtar; Albert Cortez (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cinnamon Dorsey, Vonceia Reece, Mary Lou Serafine)
Against — None
On — Dee Simpson, Correction Employees Council 7 AFSCME

BACKGROUND: Government Code, sec. 2155.445 requires the Comptroller's Office, which is responsible for state procurement, and state agencies to give preference to recycled products when making purchases.

When the price is reasonable, the Comptroller's Office and state agencies are required to purchase paper with recycled fibers.

Additionally, the comptroller, state agencies, and agency employees are required to purchase motor oil and lubricants with at least 25 percent recycled material for state-owned vehicles when the costs are comparable to new motor oil and lubricants.

DIGEST: CSHB 3395 would remove the requirement for the comptroller and state agencies to give preference to recycled products when making purchases, instead making such purchases allowable.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 3395 would save the state money by allowing, rather than requiring, the Comptroller's Office and state agencies to purchase products with recycled material. Reams of recycled paper, for example,

cost the state up to 35 percent more than non-recycled paper. Changing the purchasing requirements for paper alone would save the state a significant amount of money.

Vague language in current law stipulating that the comptroller and state agencies purchase recycled products at reasonable or comparable prices is making Texas pay higher prices for many products used regularly by state employees.

CSHB 3395 would recognize that protecting our natural resources by recycling remains important, so it would continue to allow the purchase of recycled products when the comptroller and state agencies deemed it appropriate and cost effective.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

According to the Legislative Budget Board, CSHB 3395 would not have a significant fiscal impact on the state. The Government Code already provides that the comptroller, state agencies, and state employees purchase certain recycled products only when the price is reasonable or comparable to non-recycled products. Removing the requirement to purchase recycled products would not necessarily save taxpayer dollars.

Allowing the purchase of products that use more limited natural resources would send the wrong message to Texans when recycling is easy and cost-effective and ensures more of our natural resources remain intact for future generations.