

SUBJECT: Appropriations for miscellaneous claims and judgments

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 24 ayes — Pitts, Sylvester Turner, Ashby, Bell, G. Bonnen, Carter, Crownover, Darby, Giddings, Gonzales, Howard, Hughes, S. King, Longoria, Márquez, Muñoz, Orr, Otto, Patrick, Perry, Price, Raney, Ratliff, Zerwas

0 nays

3 absent — S. Davis, Dukes, McClendon

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — David Mattax, Office of Attorney General

BACKGROUND: Since the late 1970s, every general appropriations act has contained a rider prohibiting the use of general revenue to pay any judgment or settlement against the state unless the funds are appropriated specifically for such purposes. For fiscal 2012-13, this provision is located in Art. 9, sec. 16.02 of HB 1 by Pitts, the general appropriations act enacted by the 82nd Legislature in 2011.

DIGEST: HB 3188 would appropriate money from various accounts to pay outstanding claims and judgments against the state, which would be listed individually. The bill would appropriate a total of \$7.2 million from the general revenue fund, \$7.3 million from the State Highway Fund, \$64,001 from the Unemployment Compensation Clearance Account, and \$264 out of the Lottery Account. For a claim or judgment to be paid, it would have to be verified and substantiated by the administrator of the special fund or account and be approved by the attorney general and the comptroller by August 31, 2015.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

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NOTES: The companion bill, SB 1654 by Williams, has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.