HOUSE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION bill digest

5/4/2017

SUBJECT:	Limiting fee changes by state agencies for license issuance, renewal
COMMITTEE:	Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	6 ayes — Kuempel, Frullo, Geren, Goldman, Paddie, S. Thompson
	3 absent — Guillen, Hernandez, Herrero
WITNESSES:	 For — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Jon Fisher, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas; Annie Spilman, National Federation of Independent Business-Texas; Matt Burgin, Texas Food & Fuel Association; Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association; David White, Texas Psychological Association; Bill Peacock, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Jim Sheer, Texas Retailers Association) Against — None On — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Tim Kleinschmidt, Texas
	Department of Agriculture; Sacha Jacobson)
BACKGROUND:	Some have called for prohibiting an increase in licensing fees set by state agencies in order to ensure cost predictability for licensees and ensure that any future fee increases are set by the Legislature.
DIGEST:	HB 1055 would prohibit a state agency from increasing the amount of a licensing fee established on or before January 1, 2017, to an amount greater than it was on that date. This would apply to fees for newly issued licenses or renewals.
	The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.