

- SUBJECT:** Appropriations for miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state
- COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 22 ayes — Zerwas, Longoria, Ashby, G. Bonnen, Capriglione, Cospers, S. Davis, Dean, Giddings, Gonzales, González, Howard, Koop, Muñoz, Perez, Phelan, Raney, Roberts, J. Rodriguez, Simmons, VanDeaver, Walle
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Dukes, Miller, Rose, Wu
- 1 present not voting — Sheffield
- WITNESSES:** For — Ed Heimlich
- Against — None
- On — Colin Brock, Legislative Budget Board; Amanda Cochran-McCall, Office of the Attorney General; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dolores Fojtasek, Comptroller of Public Accounts; Michael Vanderburg, Legislative Budget Board)
- BACKGROUND:** For decades, each general appropriations act has contained a rider prohibiting the use of funds to pay any judgment or settlement against the state unless the funds are appropriated specifically for such purposes. The provisions are included in Art. 9, sec. 16.04 of the House-passed version of the fiscal 2018-19 general appropriations act.
- DIGEST:** HB 3765 would appropriate money from various accounts to pay outstanding claims and judgments against the state, which are listed individually. The bill would appropriate \$4.7 million from the general revenue fund; \$15.7 million from the state highway fund; \$776 from the game, fish, and water safety account; \$880 from the state parks account; \$8,449 from the hazardous and solid waste remediation fees account; and \$4,373 from the unemployment compensation clearance account. Each

claim would have to be verified and approved by the comptroller and the attorney general before it could be paid.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 3765 is the bill routinely filed each session to appropriate money to pay those who have been awarded a judgment against the state and various other unpaid claims and charges. In some cases, the Legislature must approve certain types of claims. Those who are legally entitled to these funds cannot receive them unless and until the Legislature appropriates the funds. Each claim would have to be verified and approved by the comptroller and attorney general before it could be paid.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:**

A companion bill, SB 2219 by Hinojosa, was referred to the Senate Finance Committee on March 29.