

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1673
By: Hunter (Shapiro)
Finance
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Prior to the sunset review of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in the 74th Legislature, the commission had statutory authority to pay commission members per diem and reimburse them for actual expenses incurred in connection with attending commission meetings. The statute was amended during the sunset review process in the last session of the legislature to extend the authorization to include reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the pursuit of commission business not connected with commission meetings. Unfortunately, in the process of adding this authorization, the Sunset Commission staff inadvertently deleted the per diem provision. A recent audit by the Comptroller of Public Accounts uncovered this change and, in spite of the fact that funds have been appropriated for per diem payments, the disbursements were disallowed. The Sunset Commission staff has confirmed that deleting authority for per diem for commission members was not the intent of the legislation. Accordingly, this legislation would restore authorization to pay Texas State Library and Archives Commission members per diem in connection with attending meetings of the commission.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1673 authorizes the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to pay its members per diem, in keeping with the General Appropriations Act, for attending a meeting of the commission.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 441.001(n), Government Code, to provide that a member of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (commission) may not receive compensation for services as a member but is entitled to the per diem provided by the General Appropriations Act for attending a meeting of the commission. Provides that a member is also entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the performance of those services, subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.