

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R4331 GCH-D

S.B. 928
By: Ratliff
Finance
3/15/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, at the conclusion of each biennium, the State of Texas has a number of outstanding claims and judgments against it for varying amounts of money. The claims consist of warrants voided by the statute of limitations, outstanding invoices to private vendors, unpaid charges for Medicaid recipients, or court judgment settlements. These bills require additional appropriations to be made in order to honor the state's obligations under the law. S.B. 928 would set forth sums of money appropriated out of various accounts to pay certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the State of Texas.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 928 directs payment, after approval, of certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act; and make certain appropriations.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund No. 0001 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 2. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Confederate Pension Fund No. 0005 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 3. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the State Highway Fund No. 0006 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 4. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Proportional Registration Distributive Trust Fund No. 0021 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 5. Sets forth a sum of money appropriated out of the Coastal Protection Account No. 0027 for payment of an itemized claim and judgment plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 6. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Operators and Chauffeurs License Account No. 0099 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 7. Sets forth a sum of money appropriated out of the Community Affairs Federal Account No. 0127 for payment of an itemized claim and judgment plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 8. Sets forth a sum of money appropriated out of the Federal Alcoholism Account No. 0136 for payment of an itemized claim and judgment plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 9. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Federal Adult Blind Account No. 0141 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 10. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Compensation to Victims of Crime Account No. 0469 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of

Texas.

SECTION 11. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Fees Account No. 0549 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 12. Sets forth a sum of money appropriated out of the Judicial Fund No. 0573 for payment of an itemized claim and judgment plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 13. Sets forth a sum of money appropriated out of the Texas Agriculture Fund No. 0683 for payment of an itemized claim and judgment plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 14. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Unemployment Compensation Clearance Account No. 0936 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 15. Sets forth sums of money appropriated out of the Workforce Commission Federal Account No. 5026 for payment of itemized claims and judgments plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 16. Sets forth a sum of money appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund No. 0001 for payment of an itemized claim and judgment plus interest, if any, against the State of Texas.

SECTION 17. (a) Requires a claim or judgement to be verified and substantiated by the administrator of the special fund or account against which a claim is to be charged and approved by the attorney general and comptroller before any claim or judgment may be paid from money appropriated by this Act. Prohibits any claim or judgment itemized in this Act that has not been verified and substantiated by the administrator of the special fund or account and approved by the attorney general and comptroller by August 31, 2000, from being paid from money appropriated by this Act.

(b) Requires each claim to contain information required by the comptroller, but at a minimum must contain the specific reason for the claim. Requires the claim to include a specific identification of the goods, services, refunds, or other items for which the warrant was originally issued if the claim is for a void contract and a certification by the original payee or the original payee's successor, heirs, or assignees that the debt is still outstanding. Requires a claim to be accompanied by an invoice or other acceptable documentation of the unpaid account and any other information that may be required by the comptroller if the claim is for unpaid goods or services.

SECTION 18. Authorizes and directs the comptroller, subject to the conditions and restrictions in this Act and provisions stated in the judgments, to issue one or more warrants drawn on the state treasury, as soon as possible following the effective date of this Act, in favor of each the individuals, firms, or corporations named in this Act, in an amount not to exceed the amount set opposite their respective names and to mail or deliver each of the individuals, firms, or corporations one or more warrants in payment of all claims included in this Act.

SECTION 19. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 20. Emergency clause.