

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.H.B. 2439
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Government Organization
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Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The purpose of this bill is to set up websites where state agency employees can submit efficiency and operational suggestions and the public can view and vote on the suggestions. The bill also requires the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to post budget-related documents prepared by the LBB.

C.S.H.B. 2439 seeks to encourage ideas that could improve the effectiveness of state government, increase efficiency, and save money by requiring certain state agencies to provide website links that allow for the submission of ideas on how to make the agency more cost-efficient and that allow for voting on those ideas.

The bill also requires LBB to post online all documents prepared by LBB that are provided to a committee, subcommittee or conference committee in connection with an appropriations bill.

C.S.H.B. 2439 amends current law relating to posting suggestions and ideas on cost-efficiency and certain budget documents on certain state agency websites.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Department of Information Resources in SECTION 1 (Section 2054.1265, Government Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter F, Chapter 2054, Government Code, by adding Sections 2054.1265 and 2054.1266, as follows:

Sec. 2054.1265. POSTING OF COST-EFFICIENCY SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ON STATE AGENCY WEBSITE. (a) Provides that, in this section, "state agency" does not include an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003 (Definitions), Education Code.

(b) Requires each state agency that has 1,500 or more employees, except as provided by Subsection (d), to post on the agency's intranet website or generally accessible Internet website an electronic form or link allowing an employee of the agency to submit suggestions and ideas on how to make the agency more cost-efficient.

(c) Requires each state agency, except as provided by Subsection (d), to post on the agency's generally accessible Internet website a link allowing members of the public to:

- (1) monitor, in real time or on a weekly or monthly basis, submissions made under Subsection (b); and
- (2) vote for the public's favorite submission.

(d) Authorizes the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to exclude from the requirements of this section a state agency if the agency has a preexisting program or link that DIR determines substantially meets the requirements of this section.

(e) Requires DIR to adopt rules establishing procedures and required formats for implementing this section.

Sec. 2054.1266. POSTING HIGH-VALUE DATA SETS ON INTERNET. (a) Defines, in this section, "high-value data set" and "state agency."

(b) Requires each state agency to post on a generally accessible Internet website maintained by or for the agency each high-value data set created or maintained by the agency, if the agency:

(1) determines that, using existing resources, the agency can post the data set on the Internet website at no additional cost to the state;

(2) enters into a contract advantageous to the state under which the contractor posts the data set on the Internet website at no additional cost to the state; or

(3) receives a gift or grant specifically for the purpose of posting one or more of the agency's high-value data sets on the Internet website.

(c) Requires a high-value data set posted by a state agency under this section to be raw data in open standard format that allows the public to search, extract, organize, and analyze the information.

(d) Requires the web page on which a state agency's high-value data set is posted to:

(1) use the agency's Internet website home page address and include the uniform resource locator suffix "data"; and

(2) have a conspicuously displayed link on either the agency's Internet website home page or another intuitive location accessible from the agency's Internet website home page.

(e) Authorizes a state agency to accept a gift or grant for the purpose of posting one or more of the agency's high-value data sets on an Internet website.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 322, Government Code, by adding Section 322.0081, as follows:

Sec. 322.0081. BUDGET DOCUMENTS ONLINE. (a) Requires the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), in order to assist members of the public in posting cost-efficiency suggestions and ideas, to post on LBB's Internet website all documents prepared by LBB that are provided to a committee, subcommittee, or conference committee of either house of the legislature in connection with an appropriations bill.

(b) Requires LBB to post a document to which this section applies as soon as practicable after the document is provided to a committee, subcommittee, or conference committee.

(c) Requires that the document be downloadable and provide data in an open standard format that allows the public to search, extract, organize, and analyze the information in the document.

SECTION 3. Provides that Section 322.0081, Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to documents provided to a committee, subcommittee, or conference committee on or after October 1, 2011.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2011.