

By: Pickett

H.B. No. 3441

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to statutory authority to reduce appropriations made by the legislature to certain governmental entities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, the legislature, in its discretion, may determine the amount of each appropriation of state funds. The amounts required by statute for entities that receive state funds under Article 1 of the General Appropriations Act may be reduced or eliminated in order to achieve a balanced budget.

SECTION 2. The Employees Retirement System shall reduce expenditures by:

(1) implementing a 30-day waiting period before newly hired employees may receive insurance benefits;

(2) establishing new minimum eligibility requirements for future retirees to receive insurance as a retirement benefit;

(3) reducing the state contribution for insurance benefits for employees who work less than full-time;

(4) eliminating or reducing system contributions for the State Kids Insurance Program;

(5) discontinuing state contributions for members of state boards;

(6) eliminating state contributions for graduate teaching assistants at institutions of higher education;

1 (7) decreasing the maximum age for which dependents of
2 state employees and retirees may be covered by state insurance; and

3 (8) reducing the death benefits for beneficiaries of
4 public safety personnel.

5 SECTION 3. The Texas Ethics Commission shall reduce
6 expenditures by:

7 (1) requiring electronic filing of documents with the
8 commission;

9 (2) providing required notice by general means instead
10 of individual notice; and

11 (3) providing forms on the commission's Internet
12 website instead of mailing required forms.

13 SECTION 4. The Texas Commission on Human Rights shall
14 reduce expenditures by instituting measures necessary to receive as
15 much federal funding as possible while implementing cost-saving
16 measures.

17 SECTION 5. The Pension Review Board shall reduce
18 expenditures by discontinuing, when possible, the provision of
19 technical assistance and the issuance of actuarial impact
20 statements.

21 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.