

By: Pickett

H. B. No. 3441

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

# 1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.