

1-1 By: Clardy, Raymond (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.B. No. 3337
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2015;
 1-3 May 6, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Finance;
 1-4 May 12, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10,
 1-5 Nays 0; May 12, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Nelson	X			
1-8 Hinojosa	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Eltife	X			
1-11 Hancock	X			
1-12 Huffman	X			
1-13 Kolthorst	X			
1-14 Nichols			X	
1-15 Schwertner	X			
1-16 Seliger	X			
1-17 Taylor of Galveston			X	
1-18 Uresti	X			
1-19 Watson			X	
1-20 West			X	
1-21 Whitmire			X	

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to training and education for state agency administrators
 1-26 and employees.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Section 656.043, Government Code, is amended to
 1-29 read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 656.043. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "state
 1-31 agency" means a department, agency, or institution of the
 1-32 executive, legislative, or judicial branch of ~~[this]~~ state
 1-33 government, including an institution of higher education as defined
 1-34 by Section 61.003, Education Code.

1-35 SECTION 2. Section 656.047, Government Code, is amended to
 1-36 read as follows:

1-37 Sec. 656.047. PAYMENT OF PROGRAM EXPENSES. (a) Except as
 1-38 provided by this section or other law, a [A] state agency may spend
 1-39 public funds as appropriate to pay the salary, tuition and other
 1-40 fees, travel and living expenses, training stipend, expense of
 1-41 training materials, and other necessary expenses of an instructor,
 1-42 student, or other participant in a training or education program.

1-43 (b) For an administrator or employee of a state agency who
 1-44 seeks reimbursement for a training or education program offered by
 1-45 an institution of higher education or private or independent
 1-46 institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003,
 1-47 Education Code, the agency may only pay the tuition expenses for a
 1-48 program course successfully completed by the administrator or
 1-49 employee at an accredited institution of higher education.

1-50 SECTION 3. Section 656.048, Government Code, is amended by
 1-51 adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

1-52 (b) A state agency shall adopt rules requiring that before
 1-53 an administrator or employee of the agency may be reimbursed under
 1-54 Section 656.047(b), the executive head of the agency must
 1-55 authorize the tuition reimbursement payment.

1-56 SECTION 4. Section 656.101, Government Code, is amended by
 1-57 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as
 1-58 follows:

1-59 (1) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section
 1-60 656.043.

1-61 (1-a) "State ~~[and "state]~~ employee" has the meaning

2-1 [~~have the meanings~~] assigned by Section 572.002 [~~except that the~~
2-2 ~~terms do not include a river authority or an employee of a river~~
2-3 ~~authority~~].

2-4 SECTION 5. Section 656.102, Government Code, is amended to
2-5 read as follows:

2-6 Sec. 656.102. AGENCY POLICY. (a) Before a state agency
2-7 spends any money on training for a state employee, the state agency
2-8 must adopt a policy governing the training of employees, in
2-9 addition to the rules required by Section 656.048, that requires
2-10 training to relate to an employee's duties following the training.

2-11 (b) The policy must:

2-12 (1) provide clear and objective guidelines to govern
2-13 tuition reimbursement for an administrator or employee of a state
2-14 agency who is enrolled in training for which the administrator or
2-15 employee seeks reimbursement from this state; and

2-16 (2) address tuition reimbursement for nontraditional
2-17 training, including online courses or courses not credited towards
2-18 a degree.

2-19 (c) The state agency shall post the policy adopted under
2-20 this section on the employment section of the agency's Internet
2-21 website.

2-22 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2-23 training and education expenses paid by a state agency on or after
2-24 the effective date of this Act.

2-25 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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