

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to strategic fiscal reviews of state agencies and  
3 programs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 322, Government Code, is amended by  
6 adding Section 322.0175 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 322.0175. STRATEGIC FISCAL REVIEW OF STATE AGENCIES  
8 AND PROGRAMS. (a) The board shall perform a strategic fiscal  
9 review for all state agencies currently the subject of Sunset  
10 Advisory Commission review under Chapter 325, Government Code.

11 (b) The board shall prepare and submit a report of the  
12 findings of the strategic fiscal review by September 1 of  
13 even-numbered years to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker  
14 of the house, Senate Finance Committee, and House Appropriations  
15 Committee.

16 (c) The strategic fiscal review report will contain:

17 (1) a description of the discrete activities the state  
18 agency is charged with conducting or performing together with:

19 (A) a justification for each activity by  
20 reference to a statute or other legal authority; and

21 (B) an evaluation of the effectiveness and  
22 efficiency of the state agency's policies, management, fiscal  
23 affairs, and operations in relation to each activity;

24 (2) for each activity identified under Subdivision

1    (1), a quantitative estimate of any adverse effects that reasonably  
2    may be expected to result if the activity were discontinued,  
3    together with a description of the methods by which the adverse  
4    effects were estimated;

5                (3) for each activity identified under Subdivision  
6    (1), an itemized account of expenditures required to maintain the  
7    activity at the minimum level of service or performance required by  
8    the statute or other legal authority, together with a concise  
9    statement of the quantity and quality of service or performance  
10   required at that minimum level;

11               (4) for each activity identified under Subdivision  
12   (1), an itemized account of expenditures required to maintain the  
13   activity at the current level of service or performance, together  
14   with a concise statement of the quantity and quality of service or  
15   performance provided at that current level;

16               (5) a ranking of activities identified under  
17   Subdivision (1) that illustrates the relative importance of each  
18   activity to the overall goals and purposes of the state agency at  
19   current service or performance levels; and

20               (6) recommendations to the legislature regarding  
21   whether the legislature should continue funding each activity  
22   identified under Subdivision (1) and, if so, at what level.

23               (d) The legislature may consider the strategic fiscal  
24   review reports in connection with the legislative appropriations  
25   process.

26               (e) Until the board has completed a strategic fiscal review  
27   under this section, all information, documentary or otherwise,

1 prepared or maintained in conducting the strategic fiscal review or  
2 preparing the strategic fiscal review report, including  
3 intra-agency and interagency communications and drafts of the  
4 strategic fiscal review report, or portions of those drafts, is  
5 excepted from required public disclosure as audit working papers  
6 under Section 552.116. This subsection does not affect whether  
7 information described by this subsection is confidential or  
8 excepted from required public disclosure under a law other than  
9 Section 552.116.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.