

SUBJECT: Revising comptroller's administrative duties and other fiscal changes

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — J. Keffer, Luna, Paxton, Ritter, Smithee

0 nays

4 absent — Villarreal, Edwards, Grusendorf, Woolley

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Ken Welch, Office of the Comptroller

DIGEST: CSHB 2233 would make various changes relating to the duties and practices of the Comptroller's Office. Among its significant provisions, the bill would:

- allowing certain education funds to pay expenses from fund assets;
- modify the disbursement of funds to counties from a monthly to quarterly basis;
- allow the comptroller to audit claims against a state agency on a post-payment basis;
- allow the comptroller to accept cash on an overnight basis in lieu of securities or obligations;
- allow the comptroller to bid tax and anticipation notes via Internet auction;
- authorize state agencies to provide either written or electronic earnings statements to employees;
- specify longevity pay for all state employees, including Texas Youth Commission employees, as \$20 for each three years of service credit;
- allow advance written approval for travel expenses; and
- specify that a state employee who began work on the day after a holiday or whose employment was terminated on the workday before a holiday could not be paid for that holiday.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect August 29, 2005, or September 1, 2005, as specified.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

By updating the fiscal policy tools at the disposal of the Comptroller's Office, CSHB 2233 would improve administration of the agency's administration of the state's finances. The bill would conform several statutes relating to the comptroller's powers with legislation enacted in recent legislative sessions. It would ensure that the Comptroller's Office and other state agencies had full authority to utilize computer resources to improve efficiency of operations. The bill would correspond financial management practices by the state with appropriate and up-to-date accounting strategies. The bill also would recodify longevity pay for state employees that was reinstated by the 77th Legislature in 2001.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The committee substitute is a Legislative Council draft that made nonsubstantive changes to the bill as filed.

The companion bill, SB 1390 by Duncan, has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.