

- SUBJECT:** Public information for legislative purposes
- COMMITTEE:** Government Efficiency and Reform — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Harper-Brown, Perry, Capriglione, Stephenson, Taylor, Scott Turner, Vo  
0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 25 — 28-0
- WITNESSES:** For — Diana Fuentes, Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas;  
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Don Adams; Donnis Baggett, Texas Press Association; Michael Schneider, Texas Association of Broadcasters)  
Against — None  
On — Amanda Crawford, Office of the Attorney General
- BACKGROUND:** The Public Information Act (Government Code, ch. 552) ensures public access to records and other material maintained by governmental bodies, including local governments. The act provides exceptions for certain types of records, such as trade secrets. Sec. 552.008 states that the act does not grant authority to withhold information from individual members, agencies, or committees of the legislature to use for legislative purposes.
- DIGEST:** SB 1882 would amend Government Code, sec. 552.008 to add the requirement for a governmental body to promptly produce information for legislative purposes. The producing of this information would have to be done within a reasonable time, without delay. If the governmental body was unable to produce the public information within 10 business days, the bill would require the governmental body to certify that fact in writing and set a date within a reasonable time when the information would be made available for inspection or duplication.  
  
The bill also would require that a governmental body respond to a legislative public information request by providing the information as it became available. The governmental body would be prohibited from

delaying in producing any available information on the grounds that all of the information subject to the request was not yet available for release.

This 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 September 1, 2013.