

- SUBJECT:** Appropriations for miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state
- COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 19 ayes — Otto, Sylvester Turner, Ashby, Bell, G. Bonnen, Burkett, Capriglione, S. Davis, Gonzales, Howard, Hughes, Koop, Longoria, Miles, Muñoz, Jr., Phelan, J. Rodriguez, VanDeaver, Walle
- 0 nays
- 8 absent — Dukes, Giddings, Márquez, McClendon, R. Miller, Price, Raney, Sheffield
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — Michael Vanderburg, Legislative Budget Board; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ursula Parks, Legislative Budget Board; Rob Coleman and Dolores Fojtasek, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)
- BACKGROUND:** For decades, every general appropriations act has contained a rider prohibiting the use of general revenue to pay any judgment or settlement against the state unless the funds are appropriated specifically for such purposes. The provisions are included in Art. 9, sec. 16.04 of the House-passed version of HB 1 by Otto, the general appropriations act for fiscal 2016-17.
- DIGEST:** HB 3330 would appropriate money from various accounts to pay outstanding claims and judgments against the state, which are listed individually. The bill would appropriate \$1.8 million from the general revenue fund; \$3.5 million from the state highway fund; \$2,479 from the game, fish, and water safety account; \$176 from the state parks account; \$940 from the crime victims compensation account; and \$25 from the unemployment compensation clearance account. For a claim to be paid, it would have to be verified and substantiated by the administrator for the

special fund or account and be approved by the attorney general and the comptroller by August 31, 2017.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 3330 is the bill routinely filed each session to appropriate money to pay those who have been awarded a judgment against the state and various other unpaid claims and charges. Those who are legally entitled to these funds cannot receive them unless and until the Legislature appropriates the funds. Each claim would have to be verified and approved by the comptroller and attorney general before it could be paid.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:**

The Senate companion bill, SB 1280 by Huffman, was reported favorably from the Senate Finance Committee on April 15 and recommended for the local and uncontested calendar.