

House Bill 2439: State Agencies Efficiency and Transparency

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Overview

House Bill 2439 (HB 2439),¹ an efficiency and transparency bill, requires all state agencies with 1,500 employees or more to post a link on their websites allowing an employee to submit suggestions and ideas on how to make the agency more cost-efficient. The bill also stipulates that agencies provide the public with access to employee suggestions and enable them to vote for their favorite submissions. In order to assist the public in understanding the suggestions, HB 2439 directs the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to post on their website, documents that they have prepared for a committee, subcommittee or conference committee for either house of the Legislature.

House Bill 2439 Specifics

The engrossed version of HB 2439 would do the following:

Mandate that certain agencies provide an online platform for employees to suggest cost-efficiency strategies

- Any agency with 1,500 or more employees, with the exception of agencies that are already in compliance with the bill, would be required to provide a link on their intranet or generally accessible website allowing employees to provide suggestions for cost-saving measures and efficiencies within the agency.

Require certain agencies to provide a link for members of the public to access employees' efficiency suggestions

- Agencies that meet the previously-mentioned criteria must post all employee cost-efficiency suggestions on their generally-accessible website for members of the public to review.

- Members of the public would have the ability to vote on their preferred cost-efficiency suggestions through the agency's general website.

The Legislative Budget Board must provide public access to all fiscal documents prepared for the legislature

- The LBB would disclose, online, all documents they prepare for committees, subcommittees or conference committees for either house of the legislature that is connected with an appropriations bill.
- The documents must be posted in a timely manner, and must be downloadable and in an open standard format.
- The public must have the ability to search, extract, organize and analyze the documents.

Possible Impacts of House Bill 2439

HB 2439 would likely:

- Provide large state agencies with valuable cost-saving suggestions;
- Allow taxpayers to have input into the agencies' policy-making processes; and
- Educate and inform the public of state spending strategies, providing them a say in how state funds are appropriated. ★

¹ Texas Legislature Online, bill text