

Interim Studies Established by Enrolled Bills and Resolutions 84th Legislature

2015



Texas Legislative Council

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Foreword

This publication catalogs interim studies to be conducted by state agencies and other state governmental entities, including interim committees, select committees, and advisory committees, pursuant to legislation or concurrent resolutions passed by the 84th Legislature that provide for a one-time or initial report to the legislature in 2016 or 2017. The publication does not include ongoing reports required by study provisions that do not expire.

The studies are organized by topic and, within each topic, in bill order. For each interim study in the publication, the following information is provided:

Title—Since the title of the study is not specified in the legislation, the titles used in this publication are developed based on bill or resolution language.

Submitting Entity (in parentheses)—The name of the state agency or other entity required to submit a report on the study.

Legislation—The bill and specific bill section(s) enacted by the 84th Legislature that contain provisions requiring the study, or the concurrent resolution passed by the 84th Legislature requesting the study.

Description—A summary description of the study. In most cases, the submitting entity is required to conduct the study, but, if applicable, other participating entities are noted. Report requirements also are briefly described if addressed in the legislation.

Due Date(s)—The deadline(s) for submitting the required report(s). If no due date is specified, this entry is omitted.

Recipient(s)—The persons or entities to whom the report must be submitted. If no recipients are specified, this entry is omitted.

Expiration Date—The date on which the bill or statutory provisions requiring the study expire. If no expiration date is specified, this entry is omitted.

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Appropriations and State Finance

Use of a Supplemental Appropriation Relating to Seismic Equipment, Seismic Networks, and Reservoir Behavior Modeling

(Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin)

Legislation: [House Bill 2](#), Section 16

Description: Report on the use of a supplemental appropriation to The University of Texas at Austin for the purchase and deployment of seismic equipment, maintenance of seismic networks, modeling of reservoir behavior for systems of wells in the vicinity of faults, and establishment of a technical advisory committee. Report must include certain data and modeling results, as well as costs necessary to maintain the TexNet Seismic Monitoring program after 2016.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- House Energy Resources Committee
- Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee

Business and Commerce

Alternative Electric Utility Ratemaking Mechanisms Adopted by Other States

(Public Utility Commission of Texas)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 774](#), Section 1

Description: Study analyzing alternative electric utility ratemaking mechanisms adopted by other states. Report must include recommendations regarding appropriate reforms to the ratemaking process in Texas and an analysis that demonstrates how the recommended reforms would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the oversight of electric utilities and ensure that electric rates are just and reasonable.

Due Date: Not later than January 15, 2017. Postpones the completion of a study on any periodic adjustment of the rates of electric utilities that is approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, making the study available for review by January 31, 2019, rather than by January 31, 2017.

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2019

Courts

Establishing a Statewide Uniform Attorney Ad Litem Billing System (Office of Court Administration)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1369](#), Section 2

Description: Study of the feasibility of establishing a statewide uniform attorney ad litem billing system.

Due Date: Not later than December 31, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Criminal Justice

Progress in Meeting Incident-Based Crime Statistics Reporting Goal (Department of Public Safety)

Legislation: [House Bill 11](#), Section 10

Description: Report relating to progress made on the Department of Public Safety (DPS) goal that, not later than September 1, 2019, all local law enforcement agencies will have implemented an incident-based reporting system for submitting to DPS information and statistics concerning criminal offenses committed in the jurisdiction of the local law

enforcement agency. Report must identify the number of local law enforcement agencies that have implemented the system.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017

Recipient: Legislature

Exoneration Cases Since 2010 (Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission)

Legislation: [House Bill 48](#), Section 1

Description: Review of cases in Texas in which an innocent defendant was convicted and then, on or after January 1, 2010, was exonerated. Report must include findings on the causes of wrongful convictions and recommendations on ways to prevent future wrongful convictions.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Legislature
- Texas Judicial Council

Expiration Date: December 1, 2016

Implementing a Pay-for-Performance Contract Program for Certain Criminal Justice Programs and Services (Texas Department of Criminal Justice)

Legislation: [House Bill 307](#), Section 1

Description: Study on the feasibility and potential costs and benefits of implementing a pay-for-performance contract program under which the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) would contract for the operation of criminal justice programs or the provision of criminal justice services. Report must include the results of the study and TDCJ's recommendations for implementing such a program.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Presiding officers of the standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over criminal justice programs and services

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

Care of Pregnant Prisoners Confined in County Jails
(Commission on Jail Standards)

Legislation: [House Bill 1140](#), Section 2

Description: Report relating to compliance with the requirement that each sheriff report to the Commission on Jail Standards regarding the implementation of policies and procedures to provide adequate care to pregnant prisoners confined in a county jail.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over matters relating to corrections

Expiration Date: February 1, 2017

Penal Laws Other Than Criminal Offenses Under Certain Statutes
(Commission to Study and Review Certain Penal Laws)

Legislation: [House Bill 1396](#), Section 29

Description: Study of all penal laws in Texas, other than criminal offenses, under the Penal Code, under the Texas Controlled Substances Act, or related to the operation of a motor vehicle. Report must include any specific statutes the commission recommends revising or repealing.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

- Supreme Court of Texas
- Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over criminal justice

Expiration Date: December 31, 2016

Economic Development

Promoting the Aerospace and Aviation Industries

(Aerospace and Aviation Office of the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 458](#), Section 1

Description: Report on short-term and long-term statutory, administrative, and budget-related policy initiatives and reforms the state may undertake or implement to promote the aerospace and aviation industries.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016. Subsequent reports to the legislature are required under provisions that do not expire.

Recipients:

- Governor
- Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Development of a Cruise Industry on the Texas Coast between Calhoun and Cameron Counties

(Joint Interim Committee Created by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House)

Legislation: [House Concurrent Resolution 108](#)

Description: Study regarding development of a cruise industry on the Texas coast between Calhoun and Cameron Counties, including its potential economic impact and options for incentives to attract the cruise industry to South Texas.

Environment

Current and Potential Economic Impacts of Recycling (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

Legislation: [House Bill 2763](#), Section 2

Description: Study of the current and potential economic impacts of recycling, including state and local revenue that may be lost because recyclable materials are not recycled. Results of the study must be included in a 2016 summary report on municipal solid waste.

Expiration Date: August 31, 2017

Creating and Maintaining a Coastal Barrier System (Joint Interim Committee to Study a Coastal Barrier System)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 695](#), Section 1

Description: Continuation of a study on the feasibility and desirability of creating and maintaining a coastal barrier system in Texas that includes a series of gates and barriers to prevent storm surge damage to gulf beaches or coastal ports, industry, or property. Report must contain findings and any recommendations developed by the committee.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
 - Legislature
-

Family Law

Activities in the Dallas Community Addressing Family Violence (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: [House Bill 77](#), Sections 2, 3, and 5

Description: Study conducted by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in conjunction with a statewide coalition on family violence, of activities in the Dallas community addressing family violence, with a specific focus on the Dallas Men Against Abuse program, to determine if any or all of those activities or program aspects should

be implemented in other areas of Texas. Report must include the results of the study and HHSC's recommendations.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Homeless Youth

(Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs)

Legislation: [House Bill 679](#), Section 1

Description: Study on homeless youth by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, in conjunction with other members of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless, to include information on the number of homeless youth in Texas, the needs of homeless youth and the degree to which current programs meet those needs, sources of funding for homeless youth services, and a strategic plan for reducing youth homelessness in Texas. Report must include a summary of the study results and recommendations for changes in law necessary to assist homeless youth.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Best Practices for the Uniform Collection and Reporting of Information Relating to Family Violence and Certain Other Offenses

(Task Force to Promote Uniformity in Collection and Reporting of Information on Family Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Human Trafficking)

Legislation: [House Bill 2455](#), Section 1

Description: Examination of best practices for the uniform collection and reporting of information relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking as well as for the implementation of dating violence training and awareness education in public schools. Report must include policy recommendations and best practices guidelines developed by the task force.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Appropriate standing committees of the senate and the house

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Health and Human Services

Benefits of Prenatal Surgical Procedures to Treat Birth Defects (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: [House Bill 606](#), Section 1

Description: Study on the costs and benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects to include an evaluation of any type of prenatal surgical procedure that is or becomes the standard of practice for treating a birth defect. Report must include the results of the study.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- House Committee on Public Health
- Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Laws, Standards, and Policies Regarding Parking for Persons with Disabilities (Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities)

Legislation: [House Bill 1317](#), Section 1

Description: Report on laws in Texas and other states that apply to parking for persons with disabilities, federal requirements for parking for persons with disabilities, and policies on parking for persons with disabilities in state-owned parking lots.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over transportation

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

State-Funded Parenting Education Programs
(Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: [House Bill 2630](#), Section 7

Description: Report on certain state-funded parenting education programs provided by the Department of Family and Protective Services. Report must include the status of the programs, a description of the programs along with the models associated with them, and information on the number of families served by the programs.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016. Subsequent reports to the legislature are required under provisions that do not expire.

Recipients: Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over child protective services

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

Effectiveness of the Relative and Other Designated Caregiver Placement Program
(Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: [House Bill 2655](#), Section 1

Description: Study of the effectiveness of the relative and other designated caregiver placement program. Report must include recommendations for improving the program.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Pilot Program to Provide Protective Services to Persons at Risk of Future Harm

(Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: [House Bill 3092](#), Sections 1 and 3

Description: Report on a pilot program to evaluate the feasibility and associated benefits of providing protective services when an elderly person or person with a disability has been determined to be at risk of future harm from abuse, neglect, or exploitation but is not in a state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The first report must provide preliminary findings, and the second report must include recommendations for the continuation, elimination, or expansion of the pilot program.

Due Date: Not later than December 15, 2016. The second report is due not later than December 15, 2017.

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over health and human services

Expiration Date: September 1, 2019

Developing a Central Database of Information About Incapacitated Persons Under Guardianship

(Office of Court Administration)

Legislation: [House Bill 3424](#), Section 1

Description: Study of the feasibility of developing, implementing, and maintaining a computerized central database that contains the names of incapacitated persons and each person's guardian's name and contact information. Study must include a review of best practices for protecting the privacy of the individuals and the confidentiality of information included in the database. Report must contain the results of the study.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Appropriate standing committees of the senate and the house

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Costs and Outcomes Under the PACE Program (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: [House Bill 3823](#), Section 1

Description: Evaluation of the PACE program (program of all-inclusive care for the elderly) conducted by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in collaboration with the Department of Aging and Disability Services and appropriate stakeholder groups, that compares Medicaid costs and client outcomes under the PACE program to Medicaid costs and client outcomes under the STAR + PLUS Medicaid managed care program. Evaluation must include an assessment of future cost implications if HHSC failed to establish a reimbursement methodology under the PACE program in accordance with the bill's provisions. Bill requires a report on the findings of the evaluation.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Legislative Budget Board

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Transferring Operation of the Austin State Hospital to a New Facility at a New Location (Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 200](#), Section 2.26

Description: Study conducted by the Health and Human Services Commission, in coordination with the Department of State Health Services, the General Land Office, and the Texas Facilities Commission, to determine the feasibility, costs, and benefits of transferring operation of the Austin State Hospital from the hospital's facilities as of January 1, 2015, to a new facility at a new location. Report must contain the results of the study.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over health and human services
- Sunset Advisory Commission
- Legislative Budget Board

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Expansion of Authorization Agreements Regarding a Child
(Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 206](#), Section 88

Description: Study to determine whether authorization agreements under Chapter 34, Family Code, relating to certain authorizations given by a child’s parent to a child’s relative, should be expanded to include authorization agreements between a child’s parent and a person who is unrelated to the child. Report must include the Department of Family and Protective Services’ study recommendations.

Due Date: Not later than December 31, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Improving the Survey, Inspection, and Informal Dispute Resolution Processes for Long-Term Care Facilities
(Long-Term Care Facility Survey and Informal Dispute Resolution Council)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 914](#), Sections 6 and 7

Description: Study and recommendations regarding best practices and protocols to make survey, inspection, and informal dispute resolution processes more efficient and less burdensome on long-term care facilities. Report must recommend uniform standards for those processes.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Chairs of the appropriate standing committees of the senate and the house
- Executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission

Expiration Date: June 1, 2017

Establishing a Prescription Drug Donation Pilot Program

(Department of State Health Services)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1243](#), Section 2

Description: Study to determine the feasibility of establishing a program under which a health facility may donate to the Department of State Health Services unused prescription drugs for which the facility received cost reimbursement under Medicaid to be distributed to public hospitals. Report must contain the findings of the study.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016. Subsequent reports on the results of a prescription drug donation pilot program are required in each odd-numbered year.

Recipient: Legislature

Creation of a Comprehensive Plan for the Effective Coordination of Forensic Mental Health Services

(Forensic Mental Health Services Work Group)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1507](#), Section 1

Description: Recommendations by the Forensic Mental Health Services Work Group on the creation of a comprehensive plan for the effective coordination of forensic services. Report must contain the work group's recommendations.

Due Date: Not later than July 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over forensic services

Expiration Date: November 1, 2019

Appointment of a Managing Conservatorship of a Child in Order to Obtain Mental Health Services for the Child

(Department of Family and Protective Services)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1889](#), Section 3

Description: Report of aggregated information relating to children in cases of abuse or neglect who suffer from a severe emotional disturbance and for whom the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has been appointed managing conservator or joint managing conservator in order to obtain mental health services for the children.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016. A subsequent report is due not later than November 1, 2018.

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2019

Higher Education

Effect of Granting Undergraduate Course Credit by Advanced Placement Examination

(Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

Legislation: [House Bill 1992](#), Section 2

Description: Study on the performance of undergraduate students at institutions of higher education who receive undergraduate course credit for achieving required scores on one or more Advanced Placement examinations. The first report must provide a progress report on the study, and the second report must provide the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or administrative action.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017. The second report is due not later than January 1, 2019.

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over higher education

Expiration Date: September 1, 2019

Development of a Uniform Pre-Nursing Curriculum (Uniform Pre-Nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee)

Legislation: [House Bill 3078](#), Section 1

Description: Assessment, as of September 1, 2016, of the prerequisite courses required for each undergraduate professional nursing program in Texas and the ability of a student to use course credit earned at one institution of higher education to qualify for consideration for admission to an undergraduate professional nursing program offered by another institution. Report must include the Uniform Pre-Nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee's recommended uniform pre-nursing curriculum to prepare students for enrollment in an undergraduate professional nursing program.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Legislature
- Each standing committee of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over higher education

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

Pilot Project to Offer a Baccalaureate Degree Program in the Field of Dental Hygiene at Certain Public Junior Colleges (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

Legislation: [House Bill 3348](#), Section 1

Description: Report on a pilot project to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of authorizing baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene at certain public junior colleges. The first report must be a progress report on the pilot project, and the second report must include any recommendations for legislative action.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017. The second report is due not later than January 1, 2019.

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Chairs of the standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over higher education

Expiration Date: June 15 of the odd-numbered year described by the bill

Providing Off-Campus Employment Through the Texas College Work-Study Program

(Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 947](#), Section 1

Description: Study to examine the feasibility of providing employment positions located off-campus through the Texas college work-study program. Report must contain the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over higher education

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Juvenile Justice

State Laws Pertaining to Juvenile Records

(Juvenile Records Advisory Committee)

Legislation: [House Bill 431](#), Sections 2 and 4

Description: Examination of state laws pertaining to juvenile records to include development of a plan for studying, reorganizing, and comprehensively revising Chapter 58, Family Code, and any other laws pertaining to juvenile records. Report must include the Juvenile Records Advisory Committee's recommendations for revisions to state laws pertaining to juvenile records.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Legislature
- Texas Juvenile Justice Board

Expiration Date: December 31, 2018

Adjudication, Disposition, and Registration of Juvenile Sex Offenders in Texas (Task Force on Improving Outcomes for Juveniles Adjudicated of Sexual Offenses)

Legislation: [House Bill 1144](#), Sections 1 and 3

Description: Examination of the adjudication and disposition processes and programs for juvenile sex offenders, services provided by the state or local juvenile probation departments to juvenile sex offenders, the sex offender registration process for juveniles, and any related issues. Report must include findings and policy recommendations to improve the outcomes for juvenile sex offenders in Texas.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over criminal justice matters
- Executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Executive director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department
- Each state agency and nonprofit organization represented on the task force
- Any other appropriate state agency

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Labor and Employment

Reducing Workplace Violence Against Nurses

(Nursing Resource Section within the Comprehensive Health Professions Resource Center, Statewide Health Coordinating Council)

Legislation: [House Bill 2696](#), Section 2

Description: Optional study of reducing workplace violence against nurses in hospitals, freestanding emergency medical care facilities, nursing facilities, and home health agencies. If the nursing resource section conducts the study, the section must publish the study findings.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016, if the study is conducted

Expiration Date: December 31, 2017

Military Forces and Veterans

Benefits of Providing Integrated Care to Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(Health and Human Services Commission)

Legislation: [House Bill 3404](#), Section 1

Description: Study by the Health and Human Services Commission, which may coordinate with a university and medical school with expertise in behavioral health or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), on the benefits of providing integrated care to veterans diagnosed with PTSD. Report must include the number of people served and the type of integrated care provided through the study.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Pilot Program to Allow Certain Military Voters on Active Duty Overseas to Cast a Ballot Electronically

(Secretary of State)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1115](#), Section 1

Description: Report on an expanded pilot program allowing certain military voters on active duty overseas to cast a ballot electronically. Report may include the secretary of state's recommendations on the future use of e-mail ballot submission by members of the U.S. armed forces and suggestions for permanent statutory authority regarding e-mail ballot submission by members of the armed forces.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Homeless Veterans

(Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1580](#), Section 1

Description: Study conducted by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, in conjunction with other members of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless, on homeless veterans. Report must include information on the status of the homeless veteran population in Texas, statewide and major local entities serving homeless veteran populations, and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the state's approach to addressing homelessness among veterans, including any recommended changes to state law.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Awarding of the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor

(Standing Committees of the Senate and the House with Primary Jurisdiction Over Military and Veterans Affairs)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1824](#), Section 1

Description: Joint study and report on the nomination and selection process for awarding the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor.

Due Date: Not later than December 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Legislature

Occupational Regulation

Recommendations Regarding the Licensing of Forensic Analysts

(Texas Forensic Science Commission)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1287](#), Section 16

Description: Recommendations by the Texas Forensic Science Commission regarding the licensing of forensic analysts, including recommendations regarding the issuance of licenses to individuals practicing as forensic analysts on the effective date of the bill.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017

Recipient: Legislature

Public Education

Optimal Class Sizes and Student to Teacher Ratios for Prekindergarten Classes

(Texas Education Agency)

Legislation: [House Bill 4](#), Section 6

Description: Joint study conducted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Department of Family and Protective Services to develop recommendations regarding optimal class sizes and student to teacher ratios for prekindergarten classes. Report must detail TEA's findings and recommendations.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

Essential Knowledge and Skills of the Required Public School Curriculum and Certain Assessment Instruments for Public School Students

(State Board of Education)

Legislation: [House Bill 743](#), Section 2

Description: Study conducted by the Texas Education Agency and submitted by the State Board of Education (SBOE) regarding the essential knowledge and skills of the required public school curriculum and certain assessment instruments for public school students. Report must include SBOE's recommendations regarding each evaluated issue.

Due Date: Not later than May 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Legislature

Expiration Date: June 1, 2017

Development of an Alternative Writing Assessment Method for Public School Students

(Texas Education Agency)

Legislation: [House Bill 1164](#), Section 1

Description: Study during the 2015-2016 school year to develop a writing assessment method as an alternative to the currently required writing assessment instruments. Report must include study details relating to the development of the writing assessment method.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Presiding officer of each standing committee of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education

Expiration Date: September 1, 2019

Pilot Program to Implement an Alternative Writing Assessment Method for Public School Students

(Texas Education Agency)

Legislation: [House Bill 1164](#), Section 1

Description: Report that evaluates a pilot program to implement an alternative writing assessment method developed under the bill in designated school districts during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. Report must make recommendations regarding the continuation or expansion of the pilot program.

Due Date: Not later than September 1 of 2017 and 2018

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

- Presiding officer of each standing committee of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education

Expiration Date: September 1, 2019

Recommendations for New Systems of Student Assessment and Public School Accountability

(Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability)

Legislation: [House Bill 2804](#), Section 8

Description: Report of recommendations for new systems of student assessment and public school accountability. Report must include recommended statutory changes.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Legislature

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

Preliminary Performance Evaluation of School Districts and Campuses Under House Bill 2804

(Commissioner of Education)

Legislation: [House Bill 2804](#), Section 24

Description: Report on a preliminary performance evaluation of school districts and campuses . Report must include certain comparative rating information and analysis.

Due Date: Not later than January 1, 2017

Recipients: Standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over primary and secondary education

Public Retirement Systems

Health Benefit Plans Administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas

(Joint Interim Committee to Study TRS Health Benefit Plans)

Legislation: [House Bill 2974](#), Section 9
(Also see entry below for Senate Bill 1940)

Description: Study of the health benefit plans, including TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare, operated under the Texas Public School Retired Employees Group Benefits Act and the Texas School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage Act to examine and assess the financial soundness of the plans, the cost and affordability of plan coverage to eligible persons, the sufficiency of access to physicians and health care providers, and the impact of certain opt out scenarios and rating methods. Report must include necessary statutory and regulatory changes.

Due Date: Not later than January 15, 2017

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

Expiration Date: January 20, 2017

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1940](#), Sections 1 and 2
(Also see entry above for House Bill 2974)

Description: Study of the health benefit plans, including TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare, operated under the Texas Public School Retired Employees Group Benefits Act and the Texas School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage Act to examine and assess the financial soundness of the plans, the cost and affordability of plan coverage to eligible persons, and the sufficiency of access to physicians and health care providers. Report must include necessary statutory and regulatory changes.

Due Date: Not later than January 15, 2017

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

Expiration Date: January 20, 2017

Public Safety

Border Security

(Joint Interim Committee to Study Border Security)

Legislation: [House Bill 11](#), Section 17

Description: Study of border security. Report must include findings and recommendations to the 85th Legislature.

Due Date: Before the 85th Legislature convenes in regular session

Recipient: Legislature

Feasibility of the Use of an Electronic Driver's License

(Department of Public Safety)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1934](#), Section 6

Description: Study to determine the feasibility of altering state driver's license requirements to allow for the use of a digital form of a driver's license displayed on an electronic device. Report must contain detailed findings and recommendations.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: January 1, 2017

State Government

Insurable Real Property Owned by the State

(State Office of Risk Management)

Legislation: [House Bill 3750](#), Section 1

Description: Study on insurable state assets using state asset information collected by the Legislative Budget Board. The State Office of Risk Management must consolidate the information into a single database accessible by the legislature and all state agencies and

institutions of higher education. Report must include a statewide strategy to ensure that all real property owned by the state is adequately insured.

Due Date: Not later than August 31, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Collection, Reporting, and Assessment of Data on Real Property Owned by the State

(House and Senate Select Committees on State Real Property Data Collection, Reporting, and Assessment)

Legislation: [House Bill 3750](#), Section 2

Description: Study of potential ways to ensure that the state is able to identify, track, and maintain a database of the location, condition, and replacement value of all real property owned by the state. Joint report must identify, at a minimum, a single entity to collect information on all real property owned by the state, including buildings, facilities, and land.

Due Date: Not later than January 13, 2017

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: September 1, 2017

Consolidating State Purchasing (Comptroller of Public Accounts)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 20](#), Section 2

Description: Study conducted by the comptroller of public accounts, in cooperation with the governor's budget and policy staff, to examine the feasibility and practicality of consolidating state purchasing functions into fewer state agencies or one state agency. Report must include a detailed projection of expected savings or costs to the state in consolidating state purchasing.

Due Date: Not later than December 31, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Legislature

Expiration Date: January 1, 2018

Data and Transparency Issues Related to Collecting and Posting Data From State Agencies Online

(Interagency Data Transparency Commission)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1844](#), Section 1

Description: Study of the current public data structure, classification, sharing, and reporting protocols for state agencies and the possibility of collecting and posting data from state agencies online. Study must consider methods to ensure that state agencies share and report the collected data. Report must recommend solutions to data and transparency issues identified by the Interagency Data Transparency Commission.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
 - Lieutenant governor
 - Speaker of the house
-

Implementing More Secure Access Requirements for Certain Electronic Information Held by the State

(Department of Information Resources)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 1878](#), Section 1

Description: Study conducted by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) in collaboration with other agencies to determine the feasibility of implementing new requirements for accessing certain electronic information held by the state, including personal identifying information and sensitive personal information. Report must include DIR's evaluation of the available applicable systems and programs and provide recommendations regarding DIR action or legislation that will secure sensitive information held by the state.

Due Date: Not later than November 30, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house

Expiration Date: December 1, 2016

Plans to Address Deferred Maintenance at State Facilities
(Joint Oversight Committee on Government Facilities)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 2004](#), Section 1

Description: Status report on review and implementation of deferred maintenance plans for state facilities. The biannual report must include the amount of money expended from the deferred maintenance fund, the deferred maintenance projects to be completed through expenditures from the fund, and the status of ongoing and completed projects.

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: January 8, 2019

Posting and Advertising Required Public Notices on the Internet
(Joint Interim Committee Created by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House)

Legislation: [House Concurrent Resolution 96](#)

Description: Study of how legally required public notices are advertised to the general public.

Transportation

Transportation Planning and Expenditures by the Texas Department of Transportation
(House and Senate Select Committees on Transportation Planning)

Legislation: [House Bill 20](#), Section 8

Description: Study of transportation planning and expenditures by the Texas Department of Transportation to include a review and evaluation of issues regarding, among others, revenue projections, methods for determining funding, project selection criteria, and use of alternative methods of financing. Report must include information on the reviewed subjects.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016

Recipient: Legislature

Expiration Date: January 9, 2017

Sound Mitigation Measures on Certain Highways (Texas A&M Transportation Institute)

Legislation: [House Bill 790](#), Section 1

Description: Study on the implementation and effectiveness of sound mitigation measures on highways that are part of the state highway system and toll roads or turnpikes that are under the jurisdiction of a toll project entity. Report must include findings and recommendations.

Due Date: Not later than November 1, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Presiding officer of the standing committees of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over transportation

Expiration Date: August 31, 2017

Plan to Eliminate Toll Roads in Texas (Texas Department of Transportation)

Legislation: [House Bill 2612](#), Section 1

Description: Report that lists the amount of debt service on bonds issued for each toll project in Texas, identifies bonds that would be appropriate for accelerated or complete lump-sum payment of debt service, and proposes a plan to eliminate all toll roads in Texas, with certain exceptions.

Due Date: Not later than September 1, 2016

Recipients: Each standing committee of the senate and the house with primary jurisdiction over transportation

Water

Hydrology and Geology of Confined and Unconfined Aquifers in Texas (Texas Water Development Board)

Legislation: [House Bill 1232](#), Section 1

Description: Study of the hydrology and geology of confined and unconfined aquifers in Texas to determine the quality and quantity of groundwater in those aquifers, whether those aquifers are tributary or non-tributary, and the contribution of those aquifers to any surface flow or to any other aquifer in Texas. Report must contain the results of the study.

Due Date: Not later than December 31, 2016

Recipients:

- Lieutenant governor
- Speaker of the house
- Standing committees of the senate and the house that have jurisdiction over natural resources

Use of Wind or Solar Power to Desalinate Brackish Groundwater (General Land Office)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 991](#), Section 2

Description: Study conducted by the General Land Office in consultation with the Texas Water Development Board regarding the use of wind or solar power to desalinate brackish groundwater on real property owned by the state. Report must contain the results of the study.

Due Date: Not later than December 31, 2016

Recipients:

- Governor
- Legislature

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