

Section 5

Special Provisions Relating To All Regulatory Agencies Rider Highlights - Senate

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2. **Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections.** The Real Estate Commission is removed pursuant to the enactment of Senate Bill 1000, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011 which resulted in the agency becoming self-directed and semi-independent. Senate Bill 1000 removes the agency from the legislative budgeting process and enables the agency to operate outside the provisions of the 2014-15 General Appropriations Act.
3. **Funding for Health Professions Council.** Recommendations reflect an increase in the amounts transferred by member agencies to the Health Professions Council above the 2012-13 level by \$22,169 for the biennium. Recommendations include funding for the Health Professions Council (HPC) core services with an increase of \$6,494 as compared to allocations approved by the 82nd Legislature due to the retained value of a Department of Information Resources rebate, and an increase of \$15,675 to Shared Regulatory Database costs due to software updates. Recommendations also include a net biennial amount of \$8,187 that was reduced from prior biennium appropriations for the purpose of required Data Center Consolidation. Recommended funding amounts are based on the allocation method approved by the 82nd Legislature.
4. **Texas.Gov Appropriation.** Recommendations include an updated informational listing of the amounts appropriated to participating agencies in bill pattern order and continue to require notifications of agency exemptions from participation and certifications by the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The rider is designed to authorize each licensing agency participating in the program to increase its licensing fees in order to pay for the costs associated with the program. In order to neutralize the cost to the General Appropriations Act, the rider appropriates to each participating agency an amount equal to revenue raised by that agency for new application fees.

The Texas Medical Board and the Real Estate Commission are removed from the listing. The Texas Medical Board received an exemption from the Department of Information Resources and will now provide services directly. The Real Estate Commission is removed pursuant to the agency becoming self-directed and semi-independent.

6. **Contingency Appropriations for Criminal History Record Information.** Recommendations include an updated informational listing of the amounts appropriated to agencies conducting criminal history background checks in bill pattern order and the continuation of a requirement that appropriations are limited to revenue collections for these checks. The rider is designed to authorize each licensing agency conducting criminal history background checks to increase fees in order to pay for the costs associated with those checks as necessary. An additional requirement has been added to ensure agencies utilize the funds appropriated for Criminal History Record Information only for the purpose of paying for the cost of the fee charged by entities performing the background checks. In order to neutralize the cost to the General Appropriations Act, the rider appropriates to each participating agency an amount equal to revenue raised by that agency for this purpose.

The Texas Board of Nursing and the Real Estate Commission are removed from the listing. The Texas Board of Nursing will no longer receive the criminal background check fee from licensees and require any applicant or licensee requiring a criminal background check to go directly to the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Real Estate Commission is removed pursuant to the agency becoming self-directed and semi-independent.