

## Chapter 366

H.B. No. 3337

### AN ACT

relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 656.043, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.043. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "state agency" means a department, agency, or institution of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of [this] state government, including an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 2. Section 656.047, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 656.047. PAYMENT OF PROGRAM EXPENSES. (a) Except as provided by this section or other law, a [A] state agency may spend public funds as appropriate to pay the salary, tuition and other fees, travel and living expenses, training stipend, expense of training materials, and other necessary expenses of an instructor, student, or other participant in a training or education program.

(b) For an administrator or employee of a state agency who seeks reimbursement for a training or education program offered by an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, the agency may only pay the tuition expenses for a

1 program course successfully completed by the administrator or  
2 employee at an accredited institution of higher education.

3 SECTION 3. Section 656.048, Government Code, is amended by  
4 adding Subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 (b) A state agency shall adopt rules requiring that before  
6 an administrator or employee of the agency may be reimbursed under  
7 Section 656.047(b), the executive head of the agency must  
8 authorize the tuition reimbursement payment.

9 SECTION 4. Section 656.101, Government Code, is amended by  
10 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as  
11 follows:

12 (1) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section  
13 656.043.

14 (1-a) "State [and "state] employee" has the meaning  
15 [have the meanings] assigned by Section 572.002 [except that the  
16 terms do not include a river authority or an employee of a river  
17 authority].

18 SECTION 5. Section 656.102, Government Code, is amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 656.102. AGENCY POLICY. (a) Before a state agency  
21 spends any money on training for a state employee, the state agency  
22 must adopt a policy governing the training of employees, in  
23 addition to the rules required by Section 656.048, that requires  
24 training to relate to an employee's duties following the training.

25 (b) The policy must:

26 (1) provide clear and objective guidelines to govern  
27 tuition reimbursement for an administrator or employee of a state

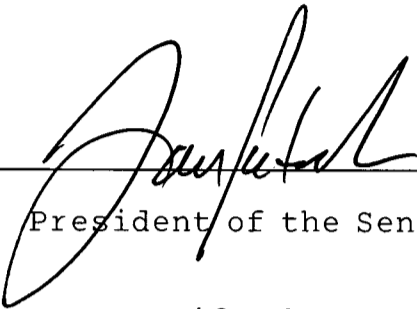
1 agency who is enrolled in training for which the administrator or  
2 employee seeks reimbursement from this state; and

3 (2) address tuition reimbursement for nontraditional  
4 training, including online courses or courses not credited towards  
5 a degree.

6 (c) The state agency shall post the policy adopted under  
7 this section on the employment section of the agency's Internet  
8 website.

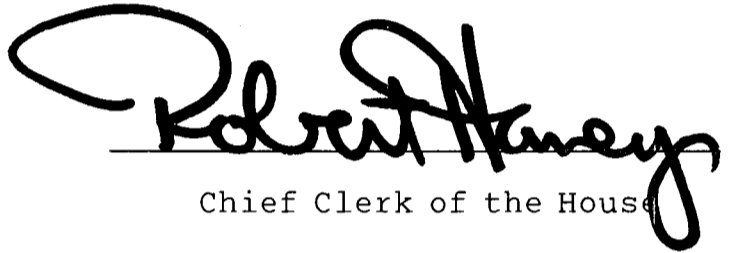
9 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
10 training and education expenses paid by a state agency on or after  
11 the effective date of this Act.

12 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3337 was passed by the House on May 5, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3337 was passed by the Senate on May 20, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 6-3-2015

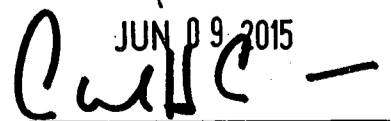
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

10<sup>30</sup> pm O'CLOCK

JUN 09 2015

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**

**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 8, 2015**

**TO:** Honorable Jane Nelson, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB3337** by Clardy (Relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.), **As Engrossed**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend Chapter 656, Government Code, regarding training and education for state agency administrators and employees, including those in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government. It would clarify that agencies may use public funds to reimburse administrators' and employees' tuition expenses for programs or courses offered by an institution of higher education only if the program course is successfully completed. The bill would provide additional guidelines for agencies' policies regarding tuition reimbursement for employee training.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 302 Office of the Attorney General, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 305 General Land Office and Veterans' Land Board, 308 State Auditor's Office, 551 Department of Agriculture

**LBB Staff:** UP, KK, FR, JJ, BRi

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 8, 2015**

**TO:** Honorable John Kuempel, Chair, House Committee on General Investigating & Ethics

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB3337** by Clardy (Relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

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