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Lucio Bill to Save State Money on Computer Software Development Passes Senate Committee

AUSTIN - Today, the Texas Senate Committee on Government Organization passed a bill by Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) to better coordinate Texas state government's computer software development functions, perhaps dramatically reducing time and cost associated with multiple agencies developing their own software.

Currently, most state agencies have some form of a software development department. These departments are responsible for creating agency-specific software to help increase efficiency in the work place. It is often the case, however, that various software's main functions have already been developed by another agency. Unless different state agencies do a better job communicating with one another, this duplication of effort will continue in perpetuity.

"Wherever possible, we should demand that state government work more efficiently, eliminate redundancy, and save money." Senator Lucio said. "This bill could save the state millions of dollars, which may be directed to other vital state services."

[Senate Bill 794](#) will require the [Department of Information Resources](#) (DIR) to coordinate all state agencies' software development departments in order to eliminate duplicative efforts and support personnel cross training. Under the bill, DIR would coordinate development, hosting, and management of all state government computer software.

It is the intent of the bill that state agencies will find their software needs being delivered quicker and cheaper. A similar bill was filed by Senator Lucio in 2011. At that time, it was estimated that the bill would save the state \$15 million over five years.

The bill will also help create a more secure data environment across state agencies.

Now passed out of the Senate Committee on Government Organization, Senate Bill 794 must be considered by the full Senate before moving to the Texas House of Representatives for consideration and ultimate passage.

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