

Department of Planning and Budget

2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB834

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Moran

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: **Irrigation systems; state-owned buildings and private property.**

5. Summary: This bill requires the Division of Engineering and Buildings, in every state-owned building or facility designed, constructed, or substantially altered after July 1, 2008, that includes as part of such design, construction, or alteration the installation of an outdoor automatic sprinkler or irrigation system, to insure that such system shall have furnished and installed technology that inhibits or interrupts operation of the landscape irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture or rainfall. The technology shall be adjustable either by the end user or the professional practitioner of landscape irrigation services. The bill also provides that every outdoor automatic sprinkler or irrigation system installed after July 1, 2008, by a landscape irrigation contractor shall be equipped with technology that inhibits or interrupts operation of the landscape irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture or rainfall. The technology shall be adjustable either by the end user or the professional practitioner of landscape irrigation services. The bill provides that this latter provision shall not apply to systems operating on golf courses or agricultural lands.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

8. Fiscal Implications: Data for irrigation water usage in state owned buildings and other private buildings is not readily available. Payback for control devices that interrupt the irrigation systems during periods of sufficient moisture or rainfall is highly variable depending upon the user selected setting of the control device, and the type and sophistication of the control device. Direct savings occur in water bills, sewer bills (depending upon on how sewerage charges are calculated), and turf maintenance. Texas studies show that water savings can be as much as 25 percent, and payback periods for the installation of control devices vary from 1 to 4 years depending upon user settings, wind, sunlight, and temperature.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of General Services and all state agencies that will be installing a sprinkler system.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/16/2008 dpb

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