

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 71

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of the Climate Change Impact Assessment
3 Council.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "council" means the Climate
6 Change Impact Assessment Council established by this Act.

7 (b) The council is established to study the impact of
8 climate change on the health, safety, and welfare of the residents
9 of this state.

10 (c) The council is composed of the following members:

11 (1) two members of the senate appointed by the
12 lieutenant governor;

13 (2) two members of the house of representatives
14 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

15 (3) seven members of the public appointed jointly by
16 the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
17 representatives, including:

18 (A) one member with expertise in climatology;

19 (B) one member with expertise in this state's
20 economy;

21 (C) one member with expertise in land management
22 and natural resource maintenance; and

23 (D) one member representing the tourism
24 industry.

1 (d) A public member of the council is entitled to
2 reimbursement of the travel expenses incurred by the member while
3 conducting the business of the council, as provided by the General
4 Appropriations Act.

5 (e) The House Committee on Environmental Regulation and the
6 Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development
7 shall provide personnel and administrative support to the council
8 as needed.

9 (f) The council shall conduct a study to:

10 (1) assess the current and potential effects of
11 climate change trends on the residents, natural resources, public
12 health, and economy of this state;

13 (2) estimate the costs to this state of adverse
14 effects associated with climate change;

15 (3) research measures for preventing or mitigating the
16 effects of flooding, erosion, drought, and wildfires that may be
17 caused or worsened by climate change; and

18 (4) recommend legislation or other regulations to
19 minimize the adverse impact of climate change on this state.

20 (g) The council shall hold public hearings in various parts
21 of this state to gather information related to the council's study.

22 (h) Not later than January 1, 2023, the council shall
23 prepare and submit a report to the legislature containing the
24 findings of the study described in Subsection (f) of this section.

25 (i) The council is abolished and this Act expires September
26 1, 2023.

27 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, the lieutenant

1 governor and the speaker of the house of representatives shall
2 appoint members to the Climate Change Impact Assessment Council as
3 required by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
5 last day of the legislative session.