

By: Swinford

H.B. No. 12

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of certain legislative agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Section 321.002(e), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The lieutenant governor and the speaker are joint chairs of the committee. The committee shall elect [~~organize by electing~~] one member to serve as [~~chairman and one member to serve as~~] secretary.

SECTION 2. Sections 321.018(b) and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) Each subpoena must be signed by either of the joint chairs of the committee [~~chairman~~] or the secretary of the committee.

(c) On the request of either of the joint chairs of the committee [~~chairman~~] or the secretary of the committee, the sergeant at arms or an assistant sergeant at arms of either house of the legislature or any peace officer shall serve the subpoena in the manner prescribed for service of a district court subpoena.

SECTION 3. Section 322.001(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The lieutenant governor [~~is the chairman of the board~~] and the speaker are joint chairs of the board [~~is the vice-chairman~~].

1 SECTION 4. Sections 322.003(a) and (b), Government Code,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 (a) A majority of the members of the board from each house
4 constitutes a quorum to transact business. If a quorum is present,
5 the board may act on any matter that is within its jurisdiction by a
6 majority vote.

7 (b) The board shall meet as often as necessary to perform
8 its duties. Meetings may be held at any time at the request [at the
9 call] of either of the joint chairs of the board [chairman] or on
10 written petition of a majority of the members of the board from each
11 house.

12 SECTION 5. Section 322.006, Government Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 322.006. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES. Before payment may be
15 made on an item of expense for the board, one of the joint chairs of
16 the board [chairman] must approve the expense.

17 SECTION 6. Section 322.009, Government Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 322.009. INSPECTION COMMITTEES. Either of the joint
20 chairs of the board [The chairman], with the approval of the board,
21 may appoint a committee to visit, inspect, and report on any state
22 institution, department, agency, officer, or employee.

23 SECTION 7. Section 322.013(d), Government Code, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 (d) For purposes of carrying out its duties, the board may
26 administer oaths and issue subpoenas, signed by either of the joint
27 chairs of the board [chairman or vice-chairman], to compel the

1 attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, and
2 documents. A subpoena of the board shall be served by a peace
3 officer in the manner in which district court subpoenas are served.
4 On application of the board, a district court of Travis County shall
5 compel compliance with a subpoena issued by the board in the same
6 manner as for district court subpoenas.

7 SECTION 8. Section 323.001(b), Government Code, as amended
8 by Senate Bill No. 1418, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular
9 Session, 2003, is amended to read as follows:

10 (b) The council consists of:

11 (1) the lieutenant governor;

12 (2) the speaker of the house of representatives;

13 (3) the chairman of the house administration
14 committee;

15 (4) five senators from various areas of the state
16 appointed by the president of the senate; and

17 (5) four [~~nine~~] other members of the house of
18 representatives from various areas of the state appointed by the
19 speaker.

20 SECTION 9. Section 323.001(c), Government Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (c) The lieutenant governor and the speaker are joint chairs
23 [~~is the chairman~~] of the council [~~and the speaker is the~~
24 ~~vice-chairman~~].

25 SECTION 10. Sections 323.003(a) and (b), Government Code,
26 are amended to read as follows:

27 (a) The council shall meet as often as necessary to perform

1 its duties. Meetings may be held at any time at the request of
2 either of the joint chairs of the council.

3 (b) A majority of the [Twelve] members of the council from
4 each house of the legislature constitutes [including the chairman
5 and vice-chairman constitute] a quorum. If a quorum is present, the
6 council may act on any matter that is within its jurisdiction by a
7 majority vote.

8 SECTION 11. Section 323.005(c), Government Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (c) The certificate of either of the joint chairs of the
11 council [chairman or vice-chairman] is sufficient evidence of the
12 validity of a claim. On certification, the comptroller shall issue
13 warrants on the treasury to pay each claim for mileage and per diem
14 expenses, salaries of employees, and other authorized expenses.

15 SECTION 12. Sections 323.008(a)-(d), Government Code, are
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (a) If the council determines a need exists, either of the
18 joint chairs [chairman] of the council may appoint statutory
19 revision advisory committees to advise the council on matters
20 relating to the revision of particular subjects of the law.

21 (b) Advisory committees consist of seven members appointed
22 by a joint chair [the chairman] of the council. Advisory committee
23 members serve for a period of two years from the date of
24 appointment.

25 (c) In appointing an advisory committee, a joint chair [the
26 chairman] shall include representatives of the:

- 27 (1) State Bar of Texas;

1 (2) judiciary; and

2 (3) Texas law schools.

3 (d) An advisory committee shall meet at the call of either
4 of the joint chairs [~~chairman~~] of the council.

5 SECTION 13. Section 323.011(b), Government Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (b) A subpoena must be signed by either of the joint chairs
8 [~~chairman~~] of the council [~~or the vice-chairman~~].

9 SECTION 14. Section 323.012(b), Government Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (b) On the request of either of the joint chairs [~~chairman~~]
12 of the council [~~or the vice-chairman~~], the attorney general shall
13 render opinions and give advice and assistance to the council.

14 SECTION 15. Sections 325.003(a), (d), and (j), Government
15 Code, are amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The Sunset Advisory Commission consists of five [~~four~~]
17 members of the senate and one public member appointed by the
18 lieutenant governor and five [~~four~~] members of the house of
19 representatives and one public member appointed by the speaker of
20 the house. Each appointing authority may designate himself as one
21 of the legislative appointees.

22 (d) Legislative members serve four-year terms, with terms
23 staggered so that the terms of as near to one-half of the
24 legislative members appointed by the lieutenant governor as
25 possible and the terms of as near to one-half of the legislative
26 members appointed by the speaker as possible expire September 1 of
27 each odd-numbered year. If the lieutenant governor or the speaker

1 serves on the commission, he continues to serve until resignation
2 from the commission or until he ceases to hold the office. Public
3 members serve two-year terms expiring September 1 of each
4 odd-numbered year.

5 (j) Seven [~~Six~~] members of the commission constitute a
6 quorum. A final action or recommendation may not be made unless
7 approved by a record vote of a majority of the commission's full
8 membership.

9 SECTION 16. If, on the effective date of this Act, more than
10 four members of the house of representatives appointed under
11 Section 323.001(b)(5), Government Code, are serving as members of
12 the Texas Legislative Council:

13 (1) those members' terms on the council expire on the
14 effective date of this Act; and

15 (2) the speaker of the house of representatives, as
16 soon as possible after the effective date of this Act, shall appoint
17 four members of the house to serve as members of the Texas
18 Legislative Council under Section 323.001(b)(5), Government Code,
19 as amended by this Act.

20 SECTION 17. The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the
21 house of representatives, as soon as possible after the effective
22 date of this Act, shall appoint a member of the senate or the house
23 of representatives, respectively, to serve initial terms on the
24 Sunset Advisory Commission under Section 325.003, Government Code,
25 as amended by this Act, expiring September 1, 2005.

26 SECTION 18. This Act takes effect December 1, 2003.