

Amend SB 1045 by striking all below the enacting clause and substituting the following:

SECTION 1. (a) The joint interim committee on postconviction exonerations is established to:

(1) study the cause of and investigate wrongful criminal convictions;

(2) identify appropriate improvements in the criminal justice system to prevent future wrongful convictions;

(3) recommend policies, procedures, practices, and legislation needed to prevent future wrongful convictions; and

(4) assess the procedures used by counties to ensure due process and suggest a statewide model for procedures ensuring due process.

(b) The interim committee is composed of the following nine members:

(1) an attorney who represents the state in the prosecution of felonies, as appointed by the attorney general;

(2) two members of the criminal justice committee of the senate who are appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) two members of the criminal jurisprudence committee of the house of representatives who are appointed by the speaker of the house;

(4) a member of the judiciary who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court;

(5) two law professors who are appointed by the chancellor of The University of Texas System, one of whom works in the forensic science field; and

(6) a criminal defense attorney who is appointed by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

(c) The lieutenant governor shall designate one of the members of that committee who are appointed to the interim committee as described by Subsection (b) to serve as the chair of the interim committee.

(d) The interim committee shall meet initially at the call of the chair of the interim committee, and the interim committee shall subsequently hold meetings and public hearings at the call of the chair. To the extent that it is financially possible, the

interim committee shall hold public hearings in multiple locations across this state.

(e) The interim committee may issue process as provided by the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure and by Section 301.024, Government Code, and has all other powers and duties provided to special committees by the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and by policies of the committees on administration.

(f) From the contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally, the members of the interim committee shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Act in accordance with the senate and house of representatives rules of procedure and the policies of the committees on administration. Other necessary expenses of operations shall be paid from the contingent expense fund of the senate and the contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally.

(g) Not later than October 1, 2004, the interim committee shall prepare and deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives copies of the report containing the interim committee's findings and recommendations.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

SECTION 3. A person or association required to appoint a member to the joint interim committee on postconviction exonerations shall make the appointment not later than October 1, 2003.

WILLIAMS

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