

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 84

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority and functions of the Office of Defense
Affairs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 481.0065, Government Code, is amended to
read as follows:

Sec. 481.0065. OFFICE OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS. (a) The
department shall:

(1) establish and maintain an Office of Defense
Affairs; and

(2) appoint a director to manage the Office of Defense
Affairs.

(b) The Office of Defense Affairs shall:

(1) provide information to defense-dependent
communities, the legislature, the Texas congressional delegation,
and state agencies regarding federal actions affecting military
installations and missions;

(2) serve as a clearinghouse for:

(A) defense economic adjustment and transition
information and activities [~~along with the Texas Business and
Community Economic Development Clearinghouse~~]; and

(B) information about:

(i) issues related to the operating costs
and strategic value of federal military installations located in

1 the state; ~~and~~

2 (ii) the loss of jobs in defense-dependent
3 communities and defense-related businesses; and

4 (iii) interstate competition relative to
5 defense strategies and incentive programs that other states are
6 utilizing to maintain, expand, and attract new defense contractors;

7 (3) provide assistance to defense-dependent
8 communities that have experienced a defense-related closure or
9 realignment, including the administration and oversight for
10 implementing the programs established under Chapter 486,
11 Government Code, and Chapter 2310, Government Code;

12 (4) assist defense-dependent communities in the
13 design and execution of programs that enhance a community's
14 relationship with military installations and defense-related
15 businesses; ~~and~~

16 (5) assist communities in the retention, expansion,
17 and recruiting of defense-related businesses; and

18 (6) assist with the development of state strategies
19 and programs to protect the state's existing military missions and
20 position Texas to be competitive for new or expanded military
21 missions; and

22 (7) serve as the state's focal point for the
23 coordination of all issues and policies that would affect active,
24 closed, or realigned military installations and defense-related
25 business.

26 (c) The Office of Defense Affairs shall prepare an annual
27 report about the active military installations, defense-dependent

1 communities, and defense-related businesses in this state. The
2 report must include:

3 (1) an economic impact statement describing in detail
4 the effect of the military on the economy of this state;

5 (2) a statewide assessment of active military
6 installations and current missions;

7 (3) a statewide strategy to attract defense-related
8 business and prevent future defense closures and realignments;

9 (4) a list of state and federal activities that have
10 significant impact on active military installations and current
11 missions;

12 (5) a statement identifying:

13 (A) the state and federal programs and services
14 that assist defense-dependent communities impacted by military
15 base closures or realignments and the efforts to coordinate those
16 programs; and

17 (B) the efforts to coordinate state agency
18 programs and services that assist defense-dependent communities in
19 retaining active military installations and current missions;

20 (6) an evaluation of initiatives to retain existing
21 defense-related businesses; and

22 (7) a list of agencies with regulations, policies,
23 programs, or services that impact the operating costs or strategic
24 value of federal military installations and activities in the
25 state.

26 (d) State agencies shall cooperate with and assist the
27 Office of Defense Affairs in the preparation of the report required

1 under Subsection (c) including providing information about
2 regulations, policies, programs, and services that may impact
3 defense-dependent communities, defense-related businesses, and the
4 viability of existing Texas military missions. The Office of
5 Defense Affairs shall submit its report to the governor and the
6 legislature not later than July 1 of each year.

7 (e) The Office of Defense Affairs shall coordinate an annual
8 meeting with the head of each state agency, members of the Texas
9 Strategic Military Planning Commission, and members of the
10 legislature whose districts contain active, closed, or realigned
11 military installations to discuss the implementation of the
12 recommendations outlined in the report required under Subsection
13 (c).

14 (f) [~~(d)~~] The Office of Defense Affairs shall develop and
15 maintain a database of the names and public business information of
16 all prime contractors and subcontractors operating in this state
17 who perform defense-related work.

18 [~~(f) The Office of Defense Affairs may enter into an
19 agreement with a consulting firm to provide information and
20 assistance on a pending decision of the United States Department of
21 Defense or other federal agency regarding the status of military
22 installations and defense-related businesses located in this
23 state.~~]

24 (g) In this section, "state agency" has the meaning assigned
25 by Section 2151.002.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.