

By: Keffer of Eastland, Christian

H.B. No. 649

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating an interagency work group on rural issues.

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

SECTION 1. Section 487.054(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) At least once each year, the following agency heads or their designees shall meet in Austin to discuss rural issues and to provide information showing the impact each agency has on rural communities for use in developing rural policy and compiling the annual report under Section 487.051(4):

(1) the commissioner of agriculture;

(2) the executive director of the Public Utility Commission of Texas;

(3) the director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service;

(4) the presiding officer of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board;

(5) the executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

(6) the commissioner of health;

(7) the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board;

(8) the executive director of the Parks and Wildlife Department;

- 1           (9) the commissioner of human services;
- 2           (10) the commissioner of higher education;
- 3           (11) the comptroller; ~~and~~
- 4           (12) the executive director of the Texas Department of  
5 Transportation;
- 6           (13) the presiding officer of the Texas Aerospace  
7 Commission;
- 8           (14) the executive director of the Texas Commission on  
9 Environmental Quality;
- 10           (15) the executive director of the Texas Department of  
11 Economic Development;
- 12           (16) the commissioner of insurance;
- 13           (17) the commissioner of mental health and mental  
14 retardation;
- 15           (18) the commissioner of education;
- 16           (19) the commissioner of health and human services;
- 17           (20) the executive director of the Texas Workforce  
18 Commission;
- 19           (21) the executive director of the Texas Historical  
20 Commission;
- 21           (22) a member of the Railroad Commission of Texas;
- 22           (23) the executive director of the State Soil and  
23 Water Conservation Board;
- 24           (24) the executive director of the office; and
- 25           (25) the head of any other agency interested in rural  
26 issues.

27           SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 487, Government Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 487.0541 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 487.0541. INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP. (a) An interagency  
3 work group is created to:

4 (1) develop a process to allow agencies to work  
5 together on issues that face rural communities;

6 (2) discuss and coordinate programs and services  
7 offered to rural communities and residents of rural communities;  
8 and

9 (3) develop regulatory and legislative  
10 recommendations that would eliminate duplication and combine  
11 program services.

12 (b) The work group is composed of a representative from each  
13 agency listed in or participating under Section 487.054(a)  
14 appointed by the executive head of the agency.

15 (c) The work group shall meet at the call of the executive  
16 director of the office.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.