

By: Keffer of Eastland

H.B. No. 649

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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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 shall meet 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; and
- 22 (23) the executive director of the office.

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

24 amended by adding Section 487.0541 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 487.0541. INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP. (a) An interagency

26 work group is created to:

- 27 (1) develop a process to allow agencies to work

1 together on issues that face rural communities;

2 (2) discuss and coordinate programs and services
3 offered to rural communities and residents of rural communities;
4 and

5 (3) develop regulatory and legislative
6 recommendations that would eliminate duplication and combine
7 program services.

8 (b) The work group is composed of a representative from each
9 agency listed in Section 487.054(a) appointed by the executive head
10 of the agency.

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

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