

1-1 By: Keffer of Eastland, Christian H.B. No. 649
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Estes)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2003;
1-4 May 8, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-5 Affairs; May 23, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-6 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 23, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to creating an interagency work group on rural issues.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 487.054(a), Government Code, is amended
1-12 to read as follows:

1-13 (a) At least once each year, the following agency heads or
1-14 their designees shall meet in Austin to discuss rural issues and to
1-15 provide information showing the impact each agency has on rural
1-16 communities for use in developing rural policy and compiling the
1-17 annual report under Section 487.051(4):

1-18 (1) the commissioner of agriculture;

1-19 (2) the executive director of the Public Utility
1-20 Commission of Texas;

1-21 (3) the director of the Texas Agricultural Extension
1-22 Service;

1-23 (4) the presiding officer of the Telecommunications
1-24 Infrastructure Fund Board;

1-25 (5) the executive director of the Texas Department of
1-26 Housing and Community Affairs;

1-27 (6) the commissioner of health;

1-28 (7) the executive administrator of the Texas Water
1-29 Development Board;

1-30 (8) the executive director of the Parks and Wildlife
1-31 Department;

1-32 (9) the commissioner of human services;

1-33 (10) the commissioner of higher education;

1-34 (11) the comptroller; ~~and~~

1-35 (12) the executive director of the Texas Department of
1-36 Transportation;

1-37 (13) the presiding officer of the Texas Aerospace
1-38 Commission;

1-39 (14) the executive director of the Texas Commission on
1-40 Environmental Quality;

1-41 (15) the executive director of the Texas Department of
1-42 Economic Development;

1-43 (16) the commissioner of insurance;

1-44 (17) the commissioner of mental health and mental
1-45 retardation;

1-46 (18) the commissioner of education;

1-47 (19) the commissioner of health and human services;

1-48 (20) the executive director of the Texas Workforce
1-49 Commission;

1-50 (21) the executive director of the Texas Historical
1-51 Commission;

1-52 (22) a member of the Railroad Commission of Texas;

1-53 (23) the executive director of the State Soil and
1-54 Water Conservation Board;

1-55 (24) the executive director of the office; and

1-56 (25) the head of any other agency interested in rural
1-57 issues.

1-58 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 487, Government Code, is
1-59 amended by adding Section 487.0541 to read as follows:

1-60 Sec. 487.0541. INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP. (a) An interagency
1-61 work group is created to:

1-62 (1) develop a process to allow agencies to work
1-63 together on issues that face rural communities;

1-64 (2) discuss and coordinate programs and services

2-1 offered to rural communities and residents of rural communities;
2-2 and

2-3 (3) develop regulatory and legislative
2-4 recommendations that would eliminate duplication and combine
2-5 program services.

2-6 (b) The work group is composed of a representative from each
2-7 agency listed in or participating under Section 487.054(a)
2-8 appointed by the executive head of the agency.

2-9 (c) The work group shall meet at the call of the executive
2-10 director of the office.

2-11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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