

Amend **HB 925**, engrossed version, by adding a new SECTION 2 to read as follows and renumbering accordingly.

SECTION 2. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490. TEXAS-MEXICO STRATEGIC

INVESTMENT COMMISSION

Sec. 490.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas-Mexico Strategic Investment Commission.

(2) "Texas-Mexico border region" has the meaning assigned by Section 2056.002.

Sec. 490.002. PURPOSE. The ongoing economic stability and growth of Texas and the improved quality of life for all Texans is dependent in part on coordination with neighboring states. Texas and the Mexican border states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas face common challenges in the areas of infrastructure, health care, access to and availability of water, economic development and trade, and environmental protection. The commission will encourage a collaborative approach between Texas and neighboring Mexican states in specific areas so as to better address challenges and plan for the future.

Sec. 490.003. TEXAS-MEXICO STRATEGIC INVESTMENT COMMISSION; MEMBERS. (a) The Texas-Mexico Strategic Investment Commission is established.

(b) The commission is composed of:

(1) the border commerce coordinator or a designee;

(2) the executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation or a designee;

(3) the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board or a designee;

(4) the commissioner of state health services or a designee;

(5) the chair of the Railroad Commission or a designee; and

(6) the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or a designee.

(c) The border commerce coordinator shall serve as the chair

of the commission.

Sec. 490.004. FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION. (a) The commission shall:

(1) represent government agencies within the Texas-Mexico border region to help reduce regulations by improving communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments;

(2) examine trade issues between the United States and Mexico;

(3) study the flow of commerce at ports of entry between this state and Mexico, including the movement of commercial vehicles across the border, and establish a plan to aid that commerce and improve the movement of those vehicles;

(4) work with federal officials to resolve transportation issues involving infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to allow for the efficient movement of goods and people across the border between Texas and Mexico;

(5) work with federal officials to create a unified federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs;

(6) identify problems involved with border truck inspections and related trade and transportation infrastructure;

(7) work to increase funding for the North American Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater facilities;

(8) explore the sale of excess electric power from Texas to Mexico;

(9) identify areas of environmental protection that need to be addressed cooperatively between Texas and the Mexican states;

(10) identify common challenges to health care on which all states can collaborate; and

(11) develop recommendations, when possible, for addressing border challenges.

(b) The commission shall work with local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and other appropriate community organizations in the Texas Department of Transportation's Pharr, Laredo, and El Paso transportation

districts, and with comparable entities in Mexican states bordering those districts, to address the unique planning and capacity needs of those areas. The commission shall assist those governments, organizations, and entities to identify and develop initiatives to address those needs.

(c) The commission shall work with industries and communities on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border to develop international industry cluster initiatives to capitalize on resources available in communities located adjacent to each other across the border.

(d) The commission may meet at least once a year with representatives from the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas during the Border Governors Conference to discuss issues and challenges of the Texas-Mexico border region and develop strategic collaborative approaches for addressing the challenges.

Sec. 490.005. FUNDING. (a) In addition to any amount appropriated by the legislature, the commission may request state agencies to apply for funds from the federal government or any other public or private entity. The commission may also solicit grants, gifts, and donations from private sources on the state's behalf. The use of a gift, grant, or donation solicited under this section must be consistent with the purposes of the commission.

(b) The commission shall review and may require reports of state agencies that receive appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, or endowments as a result of the commission's recommendations.

(c) A state agency may accept a gift, grant, donation, or endowment received as a result of the commission's recommendations.