

Amend **HB 925** by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION _____. (a) Section 772.010, Government Code, as added by Chapters 429 and 1339, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 772.010. BORDER COMMERCE COORDINATOR. (a) The governor shall designate a border commerce coordinator in the governor's office or the office of the secretary of state as determined by the governor. The coordinator shall:

(1) examine trade issues between the United States, Mexico, and Canada;

(2) act as an ombudsman for government agencies within the Texas and Mexico border region to help reduce regulations by improving communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments;

(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) ~~[(3)]~~ 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) ~~[(4)]~~ work with federal officials to create a unified federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs;

(6) ~~[(5)]~~ work to increase funding for the North American Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater facilities; and

(7) ~~[(6)]~~ explore the sale of excess electric power from Texas to Mexico.

(b) The governor shall appoint a border commerce coordinator to serve at the will of the governor in the governor's office or in the office of the secretary of state and may select the secretary of state as the coordinator.

(c) The coordinator shall work with the interagency work group established under Section 772.011, and with local

governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and other appropriate community organizations adjacent to the border of this state with the United Mexican States, and with comparable entities in Mexican states adjacent to that border, to address the unique planning and capacity needs of those areas. The coordinator shall assist those governments, organizations, and entities to identify and develop initiatives to address those needs. Before January 1 of each year, the coordinator shall submit to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature a report of the coordinator's activities under this subsection during the preceding year.

(d) The coordinator shall:

(1) work with private industry and appropriate entities of Texas and the United States to require that low-sulfur fuel be sold along highways in Texas carrying increased traffic related to activities under the North American Free Trade Agreement; and

(2) work with representatives of the government of Mexico and the governments of those Mexican states bordering Texas to increase the use of low-sulfur fuel.

(b) Chapter 772, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 772.0101 and 772.0102 to read as follows:

Sec. 772.0101. BORDER INSPECTION, TRADE, AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The border commerce coordinator shall establish and appoint the members of the Border Inspection, Trade, and Transportation Advisory Committee. The members must include representatives of the Texas Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, the Office of State-Federal Relations, the United States Department of Transportation, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and other representatives of state and federal agencies involved in border crossing issues. Chapter 2110 does not apply to the size, composition, or duration of the Border Inspection, Trade, and Transportation Advisory Committee.

(b) The coordinator shall work with the advisory committee and the interagency work group established under Section 772.011 to:

(1) identify problems involved with border truck

inspections and related trade and transportation infrastructure;
and

(2) develop recommendations for addressing those
problems.

(c) The coordinator shall work with the advisory committee
and appropriate agencies of Texas, the United States, and Mexico to
develop initiatives to mitigate congestion at ports of entry at the
Mexican border by conducting in Mexico inspections of trucks
entering Texas. In developing the initiatives, the coordinator
shall give consideration to similar initiatives proposed or
implemented at the border of the United States and Canada.

(d) The coordinator shall report quarterly to the presiding
officer of each house of the legislature on the findings and
recommendations of the advisory committee.

Sec. 772.0102. TRADE AND COMMERCE PLAN. (a) The border
commerce coordinator shall develop, in conjunction with
representatives of chambers of commerce, metropolitan planning
organizations adjacent to the United Mexican States, and private
industry groups, and with the advice of the interagency work group
established under Section 772.011, a comprehensive trade and
commerce plan for the region designed to:

(1) increase trade by attracting new business
ventures;

(2) support expansion of existing industries; and

(3) address workforce training needs.

(b) The plan must cover five-year, 10-year, and 15-year
periods.

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

(d) The coordinator shall conduct annual conferences of
interested persons, working with chambers of commerce and
universities of this state along the Texas and Mexico border
region, and shall host those conferences at no cost to the
coordinator. The purposes of the conferences are to:

(1) make the trade and commerce plan public;

(2) report on updated findings and progress of implementation of the plan; and

(3) develop new international industry cluster initiatives.

(c) This section takes effect only if a specific appropriation for the implementation of this section is provided in S.B. No. 1 (General Appropriations Act), Acts of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005. If no specific appropriation is provided in the General Appropriations Act, this section has no effect.