

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 2529

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a higher education border work group created to address
3 and recommend policies regarding border communities and
4 international trade.

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

6 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "institution of higher
7 education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

8 SECTION 2. HIGHER EDUCATION BORDER WORK GROUP. Not later
9 than November 1, 2005, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
10 Board shall establish a higher education border work group to study
11 and propose policies and legislation regarding issues faced by
12 border communities and issues related to international trade.

13 SECTION 3. COMPOSITION OF BORDER WORK GROUP. The border
14 work group is composed of:

15 (1) one representative from each institution of higher
16 education with a center, institute, or other unit of the
17 institution specializing in issues faced by border communities or
18 issues related to international trade, as identified by the Texas
19 Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

20 (2) the heads of the following agencies or their
21 designees:

22 (A) the coordinating board;

23 (B) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;

24 (C) the Texas Department of Housing and Community

1 Affairs;

2 (D) the Texas Water Development Board;

3 (E) the Texas Department of Transportation;

4 (F) the Texas Commission on Environmental
5 Quality;

6 (G) the Texas Workforce Commission;

7 (H) the Department of State Health Services;

8 (I) the Health and Human Services Commission;

9 (J) the General Land Office;

10 (K) the Texas Education Agency;

11 (L) the Texas Economic Development and Tourism
12 Office;

13 (M) the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations;

14 (N) the attorney general's office; and

15 (O) the secretary of state's office.

16 SECTION 4. DUTIES OF BORDER WORK GROUP. The border work
17 group shall:

18 (1) meet at least quarterly in Austin to discuss
19 issues faced by border communities and issues related to
20 international trade;

21 (2) discuss and evaluate ideas and policies to address
22 those issues; and

23 (3) not later than November 1, 2006, submit a report
24 recommending appropriate policies to address those issues,
25 including any proposals for legislation to implement the policies,
26 to the presiding officer of each legislative standing committee and
27 subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher education.

1 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2007.

2 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
3 1, 2005.