

By: Lucio, Zaffirini, Shapleigh

S.B. No. 229

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the Advisory Oversight Community Outreach Committee in  
3 the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 411.0197 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 411.0197. ADVISORY OVERSIGHT COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
8 COMMITTEE. (a) The commission shall establish an Advisory  
9 Oversight Community Outreach Committee in the department and may  
10 adopt rules for the implementation and operation of the committee.  
11 The committee shall meet at the times and places specified by  
12 commission rule or at the call of the presiding officer or any two  
13 members.

14 (b) The commission shall appoint the members of the  
15 committee, which must include border crossing bridge owners,  
16 persons serving in the capacity of director of entities governing  
17 ports of entry, community leaders, planning developers, mayors, or  
18 persons designated by mayors, of the major municipalities in the  
19 area of the border of this state and the United Mexican States,  
20 representatives of law enforcement agencies, and representatives  
21 of the general public.

22 (c) The commission shall designate the presiding officer of  
23 the committee from among the committee's members. The presiding  
24 officer serves at the will of the commission.

1           (d) The committee shall:

2                   (1) document to the commission trade-related  
3 incidents involving department personnel;

4                   (2) develop recommendations and strategies to improve  
5 community relations, department personnel conduct, and the truck  
6 inspection process at this state's ports of entry; and

7                   (3) act as ombudsman between the department and the  
8 communities located and residents residing in the area of the  
9 border of this state and the United Mexican States and between the  
10 department and the department's personnel.

11           (e) In determining action to be taken on the information and  
12 recommendations received from the committee, the commission shall  
13 consider the importance of trade with the United Mexican States,  
14 the safety of the traveling public, preservation of the highway  
15 system, applicable federal laws and regulations, and the concerns  
16 expressed by communities.

17           (f) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year the  
18 commission shall submit to the lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
19 house of representatives, and each other member of the legislature  
20 a report documenting the committee's recommendations and comments,  
21 incident reports received by the committee, and the actions taken  
22 by the commission and department to address those matters.

23           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.