

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.

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. Chapter 2110 does not apply to the size, composition, or
14 duration of the Advisory Oversight Community Outreach Committee.

15 (b) The governor shall appoint the members of the committee,
16 which must include border crossing bridge owners, persons serving
17 in the capacity of director of entities governing ports of entry,
18 community leaders, planning developers, and mayors, or persons
19 designated by mayors, of the major municipalities in the area of the
20 border of this state and the United Mexican States. Members of the
21 committee serve for staggered terms of six years, with as near as
22 possible to one-third of the members' terms expiring January 1 of
23 each even-numbered year. A member serves without compensation for
24 service on the committee but is entitled to reimbursement for

1 expenses as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

2 (c) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of
3 the committee from among the committee's members. The presiding
4 officer serves at the will of the governor.

5 (d) The committee shall:

6 (1) document to the commission trade-related
7 incidents involving department personnel;

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

11 (3) act as ombudsman between the department and the
12 communities located and residents residing in the area of the
13 border of this state and the United Mexican States.

14 (e) In determining action to be taken on the information and
15 recommendations received from the committee, the commission shall
16 consider the importance of trade with the United Mexican States and
17 the concerns expressed by communities affected by the actions of
18 department personnel.

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

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.