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S.B. No. 293

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to meetings between representatives of the Department of  
3 Public Safety of the State of Texas and Mexican states on  
4 transportation and truck inspection issues.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 411.0097 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 411.0097. TRANSPORTATION AND INSPECTIONS MEETING WITH  
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF MEXICAN STATES. (a) The department shall meet  
10 at least quarterly with the department's counterparts in the  
11 Mexican states bordering this state to discuss issues relating to  
12 truck inspections and transportation and infrastructure involved  
13 in truck inspections and transportation.

14 (b) To assist the department in carrying out this section,  
15 the department shall contact the United States ambassador to  
16 Mexico, the border commerce coordinator designated under Section  
17 772.010, this state's members of the United States House of  
18 Representatives and Senate, and the mayors of each municipality in  
19 this state in which a port of entry for land traffic is located.

20 (c) Department representatives participating in a meeting  
21 under Subsection (a) must be proficient in Spanish.

22 (d) Based on information obtained from the meetings under  
23 Subsection (a), the department, in conjunction with the border  
24 commerce coordinator, shall develop short-range and long-range

1 plans including recommendations to increase bilateral relations  
2 with Mexico and expedite trade by mitigating delays in border  
3 crossing inspections for northbound truck traffic. The department  
4 shall update the plan biennially and submit the updated plan to the  
5 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
6 and each other member of the legislature on or before December 1 of  
7 each even-numbered year.

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