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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 and Mexican states on transportation and truck  
4 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) Not later than the 14th day after the date of the end of  
23 each meeting under Subsection (a), the department shall submit to  
24 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of

1 representatives, and each other member of the legislature a report  
2 including:

- 3 (1) documentation of the views, concerns, and  
4 recommendations of the persons participating in the meeting; and  
5 (2) the minutes of the meeting.

6 (e) Based on information obtained from the meetings under  
7 Subsection (a), the department, in conjunction with the border  
8 commerce coordinator, shall develop short-range and long-range  
9 plans including recommendations to increase bilateral relations  
10 with Mexico and expedite trade by mitigating delays in border  
11 crossing inspections for northbound truck traffic. The department  
12 shall update the plan biennially and submit the updated plan to the  
13 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
14 and each other member of the legislature on or before December 1 of  
15 each even-numbered year.

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