

By: Jackson

S.B. No. 592

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a Texas Gulf Coast Legislative Working Group and a Multistate Gulf Coast Legislative Working Group.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 33, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. GULF COAST LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP

Sec. 33.651. LEGISLATIVE FINDING. The legislature finds that it would be in the best interests of this state for appropriate members of the legislature and the land commissioner together with their counterparts in other states bordering the Gulf of Mexico to form a Multistate Gulf Coast Legislative Working Group to work together and with members of congress from the Gulf Coast states on issues of common concern to the Gulf Coast.

Sec. 33.652. TEXAS GULF COAST LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP.

(a) The Texas Gulf Coast Legislative Working Group is composed of:

(1) the land commissioner;

(2) the chair of each standing or select committee or subcommittee of the senate with jurisdiction over coastal issues, as determined by the lieutenant governor; and

(3) the chair of each standing or select committee or subcommittee of the house of representatives with jurisdiction over coastal issues, as determined by the speaker of the house of representatives.

1 (b) The members of the Texas working group shall annually
2 elect a presiding officer and assistant presiding officer for the
3 working group from among the members.

4 (c) The Texas working group shall meet as provided by rule
5 of the Texas working group.

6 (d) Members of the Texas working group may use their staff
7 to support working group activities and may travel on working group
8 business in accordance with the rules and procedures that apply to
9 the members' travel on official business.

10 Sec. 33.653. TEXAS WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES; MULTISTATE
11 GULF COAST LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP. (a) The Texas working group
12 shall:

13 (1) identify coastal issues of common concern to Texas
14 and one or more other Gulf Coast states;

15 (2) approach the group members' counterparts in other
16 Gulf Coast states to work together on issues of common concern;

17 (3) in coordination with the group members'
18 counterparts in other Gulf Coast states, communicate with
19 appropriate members of congress on coastal issues of common
20 concern; and

21 (4) propose to the group members' counterparts in
22 other Gulf Coast states that they join together with the Texas
23 working group to form a permanent Multistate Gulf Coast Legislative
24 Working Group to work together and with members of congress from the
25 Gulf Coast states on issues of common concern to the Gulf Coast.

26 (b) The Texas working group and the appropriate entity in
27 each Gulf Coast state that accepts the proposal described in

1 Subsection (a)(4) comprise the Multistate Gulf Coast Legislative
2 Working Group.

3 (c) Once formed, the Multistate Gulf Coast Legislative
4 Working Group may adopt whatever name the group determines to be
5 most suitable.

6 Sec. 33.654. BIENNIAL REPORT. The Texas Gulf Coast
7 Legislative Working Group shall report on its activities to the
8 lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives
9 not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.