

1-1 By: Shapleigh S.B. No. 1744
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2005; March 30, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on International Relations and
1-4 Trade; May 9, 2005, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 1; May 9, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the creation of the Texas-Mexico Strategic Investment
1-9 Commission.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
1-12 by adding Chapter 490 to read as follows:

1-13 CHAPTER 490. TEXAS-MEXICO STRATEGIC INVESTMENT COMMISSION

1-14 Sec. 490.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-15 (1) "Commission" means the Texas-Mexico Strategic
1-16 Investment Commission.

1-17 (2) "Texas-Mexico border region" has the meaning
1-18 assigned by Section 2056.002.

1-19 Sec. 490.002. PURPOSE. The ongoing economic stability and
1-20 growth of Texas and the improved quality of life for all Texans is
1-21 dependent in part on coordination with neighboring states. Texas
1-22 and the Mexican border states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon,
1-23 and Tamaulipas face common challenges in the areas of
1-24 infrastructure, health care, access to and availability of water,
1-25 economic development and trade, and environmental protection. The
1-26 commission will encourage a collaborative approach between Texas
1-27 and neighboring Mexican states in specific areas so as to better
1-28 address challenges and plan for the future.

1-29 Sec. 490.003. TEXAS-MEXICO STRATEGIC INVESTMENT
1-30 COMMISSION; MEMBERS. (a) The Texas-Mexico Strategic Investment
1-31 Commission is established.

1-32 (b) The commission is composed of:

1-33 (1) the border commerce coordinator or a designee;

1-34 (2) the executive director of the Texas Department of
1-35 Transportation or a designee;

1-36 (3) the executive administrator of the Texas Water
1-37 Development Board or a designee;

1-38 (4) the commissioner of state health services or a
1-39 designee;

1-40 (5) the chair of the Railroad Commission of Texas or a
1-41 designee; and

1-42 (6) the executive director of the Texas Commission on
1-43 Environmental Quality or a designee.

1-44 (c) The border commerce coordinator shall serve as the chair
1-45 of the commission.

1-46 Sec. 490.004. FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION. (a) The commission
1-47 shall:

1-48 (1) represent government agencies within the
1-49 Texas-Mexico border region to help reduce regulations by improving
1-50 communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local
1-51 governments;

1-52 (2) examine trade issues between the United States and
1-53 Mexico;

1-54 (3) study the flow of commerce at ports of entry
1-55 between this state and Mexico, including the movement of commercial
1-56 vehicles across the border, and establish a plan to aid that
1-57 commerce and improve the movement of those vehicles;

1-58 (4) work with federal officials to resolve
1-59 transportation issues involving infrastructure, including roads
1-60 and bridges, to allow for the efficient movement of goods and people
1-61 across the border between Texas and Mexico;

1-62 (5) work with federal officials to create a unified
1-63 federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs;

1-64 (6) identify problems involved with border truck

2-1 inspections and related trade and transportation infrastructure;
 2-2 (7) work to increase funding for the North American
 2-3 Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater
 2-4 facilities;
 2-5 (8) explore the sale of excess electric power from
 2-6 Texas to Mexico;
 2-7 (9) identify areas of environmental protection that
 2-8 need to be addressed cooperatively between Texas and the Mexican
 2-9 states;
 2-10 (10) identify common challenges to health care on
 2-11 which all states can collaborate; and
 2-12 (11) develop recommendations, when possible, for
 2-13 addressing border challenges.

2-14 (b) The commission shall work with local governments,
 2-15 metropolitan planning organizations, and other appropriate
 2-16 community organizations in the Texas Department of
 2-17 Transportation's Pharr, Laredo, and El Paso transportation
 2-18 districts, and with comparable entities in Mexican states bordering
 2-19 those districts, to address the unique planning and capacity needs
 2-20 of those areas. The commission shall assist those governments,
 2-21 organizations, and entities to identify and develop initiatives to
 2-22 address those needs.

2-23 (c) The commission shall work with industries and
 2-24 communities on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border to develop
 2-25 international industry cluster initiatives to capitalize on
 2-26 resources available in communities located adjacent to each other
 2-27 across the border.

2-28 (d) The commission may meet at least once a year with
 2-29 representatives from the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila,
 2-30 Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas during the Border Governors Conference
 2-31 to discuss issues and challenges of the Texas-Mexico border region
 2-32 and develop strategic collaborative approaches for addressing the
 2-33 challenges.

2-34 Sec. 490.005. FUNDING. (a) In addition to any amount
 2-35 appropriated by the legislature, the commission may request state
 2-36 agencies to apply for funds from the federal government or any other
 2-37 public or private entity. The commission may also solicit grants,
 2-38 gifts, and donations from private sources on the state's behalf.
 2-39 The use of a gift, grant, or donation solicited under this section
 2-40 must be consistent with the purposes of the commission.

2-41 (b) The commission shall review and may require reports of
 2-42 state agencies that receive appropriations, gifts, grants,
 2-43 donations, or endowments as a result of the commission's
 2-44 recommendations.

2-45 (c) A state agency may accept a gift, grant, donation, or
 2-46 endowment received as a result of the commission's recommendations.

2-47 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-48 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-49 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-50 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-51 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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