

Amend Floor Amendment No. 79 by Morrison to CSSB 3 (page 202, prefiled amendment packet), as follows:

(1) In the instructions, strike "by adding the following as a new Article and numbering it" and substituting "by adding the following new Articles and numbering them".

(2) Add the following to the amendment:

ARTICLE _____. TEXAS-LOUISIANA BORDER REGION

SECTION _____. The legislature finds that the use of water resources in and orderly economic development of the area of this state near the Texas-Louisiana border is of concern to the entire state.

SECTION _____. Chapter 2056, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2056.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 2056.012. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TEXAS-LOUISIANA BORDER REGION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Committee" means the Texas-Louisiana border region economic development steering committee.

(2) "Fund" means the Texas-Louisiana border region economic development steering committee fund.

(3) "Texas-Louisiana border region" has the meaning assigned by Section 2056.002.

(b) The committee consists of:

(1) the county judges of the five most populous counties in the Texas-Louisiana border region;

(2) the county judge of any other county in the Texas-Louisiana border region, if the commissioners court elects to join the committee; and

(3) any representatives from economic development councils serving the Texas-Louisiana border region, as selected by the committee.

(c) The committee shall develop a strategic plan for the economic development of the Texas-Louisiana border region, including the use of the area's water resources, in the same manner as a state agency is required by this chapter to make a strategic plan for its operations, and may take action to implement the strategic plan.

(d) The members of the committee shall elect one member as

presiding officer. The presiding officer may select another member to preside in the absence of the presiding officer. The presiding officer shall call at least one meeting of the committee each year and may call other meetings as the presiding officer determines are appropriate. A member of the committee is not entitled to compensation for serving as a member but is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred while serving as a member. The committee shall adopt rules for its proceedings and appoint an executive committee. The committee may employ and compensate persons to carry out the powers and duties of the committee. Chapter 171, Local Government Code, applies to a member of the committee in the same manner as that chapter applies to a local public official.

(e) The committee is a public body and a political subdivision of the state exercising public and essential governmental functions and has all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of this section. The committee, in the exercise of powers under this section, is performing only governmental functions and is a governmental unit within the meaning of Chapter 101, Civil Practice and Remedies Code. The committee is subject every 12th year to review under Chapter 325.

(f) The committee may sue and be sued in all courts, may institute and prosecute suits without giving security for costs, and may appeal from a judgment without giving a supersedeas or cost bond. An action at law or in equity against the committee may be brought in any county in the Texas-Louisiana border region.

(g) The committee may acquire by grant, purchase, gift, devise, lease, or otherwise and may hold, use, sell, lease, or dispose of real and personal property, licenses, patents, rights, and interests necessary, convenient, or useful for the full exercise of its powers.

(h) The committee may enter into a joint ownership agreement with any person.

(i) The committee may make contracts, leases, and agreements with, and accept grants and loans from, the United States, this state, agencies and political subdivisions of this

state or another state of the United States, the United Mexican States, or a state of the United Mexican States, and other persons and entities and may perform any act necessary for the full exercise of the powers vested in it.

(j) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, the committee may hold an open or closed meeting by telephone conference call. The meeting is subject to the notice requirements applicable to other meetings. The notice of the meeting must specify as the location of the meeting the location where meetings of the committee are usually held. Each part of the meeting that is required to be open to the public shall be audible to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting as the location of the meeting and shall be tape-recorded. The tape recording shall be made available to the public.