

By: Carona

S.B. No. 989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an interim study concerning alcohol-related offenses,  
3 alcohol awareness, and treatment for alcohol dependency in this  
4 state.

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

6 SECTION 1. ALCOHOL AWARENESS STUDY COMMITTEE. (a) An  
7 interim committee is created to study laws and regulations relating  
8 to alcohol-related offenses, alcohol awareness, and treatment for  
9 alcohol dependency, and to recommend methods to decrease the  
10 incidence of alcohol abuse in the state. The committee's study must  
11 include an examination of:

12 (1) state agencies that are involved in:

13 (A) efforts to reduce alcohol-related motor  
14 vehicle accidents and offenses in the state;

15 (B) programs to reduce alcohol dependence,  
16 including education and treatment services; and

17 (C) initiating and implementing alcohol  
18 awareness campaigns to reduce alcohol abuse;

19 (2) the feasibility of creating a separate state  
20 agency to oversee regulation of alcohol dependency and alcohol  
21 awareness programs and services and to administer alcohol-related  
22 laws; and

23 (3) the fiscal implications of creating a separate  
24 state agency described by Subdivision (2).

1 (b) The committee consists of the following nine members:

2 (1) four members appointed by the lieutenant governor,  
3 two of whom must be senators and two of whom must be members of the  
4 public;

5 (2) four members appointed by the speaker of the house  
6 of representatives, two of whom must be representatives and two of  
7 whom must be members of the public; and

8 (3) one member appointed by the governor, who must be a  
9 member of the public and shall serve as the committee's presiding  
10 officer.

11 (c) The committee shall convene at the call of the presiding  
12 officer.

13 (d) The committee has all other powers and duties provided  
14 to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and  
15 house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government  
16 Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on  
17 administration.

18 (e) From the contingent expense fund of the senate and the  
19 contingent expense fund of the house of representatives equally,  
20 the members of the committee are entitled to reimbursement for  
21 expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Act in  
22 accordance with the rules of the senate and house of  
23 representatives and the policies of the senate and house committees  
24 on administration.

25 (f) Not later than January 15, 2009, the committee shall  
26 report the committee's findings and recommendations to the  
27 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,

1 and the governor. The committee shall include in its  
2 recommendations specific statutory changes that appear necessary  
3 from the results of the committee's study under Subsection (a).

4 (g) Not later than the 60th day after the effective date of  
5 this Act, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
6 representatives, and the governor shall appoint the members of the  
7 interim committee created under this section.

8 SECTION 2. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2009.

9 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
10 1, 2007.