

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 1693

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation, financing, management, powers, operation, and control of inland port authorities and the establishment and promotion of inland port facilities in the state.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 12, Local Government Code is amended by adding Chapter 399 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 399. INLAND PORTS AND INLAND PORT AUTHORITIES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 399.001. PURPOSE. This chapter furthers the public purpose of developing and diversifying the economy of this state by encouraging the establishment of inland ports to facilitate commerce through strategic investment in multi-modal transportation assets and comprehensive planning, development, management, and operation of transportation, commercial processing, international trade and related facilities and supporting infrastructure.

Sec. 399.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Authority" means an inland port authority created under this chapter.

(2) "Inland port" means a port located away from traditional coastal borders.

(3) "Inland port improvement or facility" means an improvement or facility necessary or convenient for the proper

1 operation of an inland port.

2 (Sections 399.003-399.010 reserved for expansion)

3 SUBCHAPTER B. CREATION OF AN INLAND PORT AUTHORITY

4 Sec. 399.011. CREATION OF INLAND PORT AUTHORITY. Any  
5 combination of counties or municipalities or of counties and  
6 municipalities may agree, by ordinance, resolution, rule, order, or  
7 other means to establish an authority. The ordinance, resolution,  
8 rule, or order may provide for the methods by which an authority may  
9 raise revenue and acquire property and other appropriate powers and  
10 duties of the authority.

11 (Sections 399.012 to 399.030 reserved for expansion)

12 SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES OF AN INLAND PORT AUTHORITY

13 Sec. 399.031. GENERAL POWERS OF INLAND PORT AUTHORITY. An  
14 authority exercises public and essential governmental functions  
15 and has the powers necessary or convenient to accomplish the  
16 purposes and provisions of this chapter.

17 Sec. 399.032. AUTHORITY REGARDING PORT IMPROVEMENTS AND  
18 FACILITIES. An authority may construct, acquire, lease, improve,  
19 enlarge, extend, repair, maintain, replace, develop, or operate an  
20 inland port improvement or facility.

21 Sec. 399.033. FINANCING OF PORT IMPROVEMENTS AND  
22 FACILITIES. An authority may issue bonds in connection with the  
23 development of inland port improvements or facilities and may levy  
24 and collect ad valorem taxes in connection therewith provided such  
25 levy is approved through an election among qualified voters within  
26 the authority boundaries.

27 (Sections 399.034 to 399.050 reserved for expansion)

1           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.