

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 186

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Bureau for Economic Development and Hispanic Studies.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 470 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 470. BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
HISPANIC STUDIES

Sec. 470.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "bureau" means the Bureau for Economic Development and Hispanic Studies.

Sec. 470.002. BUREAU; MEMBERS. (a) The Bureau for Economic Development and Hispanic Studies is an agency of the state.

(b) The bureau is composed of 18 members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

(c) In making the appointments, the governor shall appoint six of the members from a list of nominees submitted by the Mexican American Legislative Caucus of the house of representatives and shall appoint six of the members from a list of nominees submitted by the Hispanic Caucus of the senate. The caucuses, in nominating members, and the governor, in appointing members, shall provide for representation of the diversity of this state and shall include members from both urban and rural areas and from all geographic areas of the state. If necessary to make the appointments under this subsection, the governor may request and a caucus shall give to

1 the governor additional lists of nominees.

2 (d) A member of the bureau must:

3 (1) be a resident of this state; and

4 (2) have demonstrated an interest in preserving the  
5 cultural heritage of the Hispanic citizens of this state and in  
6 advancing educational and economic opportunities and political  
7 rights for Hispanic citizens.

8 Sec. 470.003. TERMS. Members serve for staggered terms of  
9 six years, with the terms of one-third of the members expiring  
10 February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

11 Sec. 470.004. MEETINGS; OFFICERS; OFFICE. (a) The bureau  
12 shall hold at least one regular meeting in each calendar quarter of  
13 each year.

14 (b) At its first meeting in each odd-numbered year, the  
15 bureau shall select from its membership a presiding officer and an  
16 assistant presiding officer.

17 (c) The bureau shall maintain its main office at Dallas.

18 Sec. 470.005. EXPENSES. A member of the bureau is entitled  
19 to reimbursement for expenses incurred for service on the bureau,  
20 as provided by the General Appropriations Act. A member may not  
21 receive any compensation for that service.

22 Sec. 470.006. SUNSET PROVISION. The bureau is subject to  
23 Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as  
24 provided by that chapter, the bureau is abolished and this chapter  
25 expires September 1, 2021.

26 Sec. 470.007. PERSONNEL. (a) The bureau shall employ an  
27 executive director.

1           (b) The executive director may employ personnel necessary  
2 to implement this chapter.

3           Sec. 470.008. DUTIES. The bureau shall:

4           (1) develop proposals for maximizing trade between  
5 this state and all foreign countries;

6           (2) undertake research to encourage the analysis of  
7 public policies affecting Hispanic citizens;

8           (3) conduct studies and develop policy proposals on  
9 issues of particular interest and importance to Hispanic citizens,  
10 including studies and policies relating to:

11                   (A) educational issues;

12                   (B) employment opportunities, including means by  
13 which opportunities created by foreign trade agreements and federal  
14 funds may be used to prevent loss of jobs by Hispanic citizens;

15                   (C) access to social services;

16                   (D) family issues, including issues regarding  
17 child abuse and family violence;

18                   (E) political rights and access, including  
19 voting rights and rights relating to the use of languages;

20                   (F) immigration rights;

21                   (G) administrative law and regulatory issues;

22                   (H) customs law and other law governing  
23 international trade;

24                   (I) relevant cultural differences, including the  
25 effects of use of different languages;

26                   (J) affirmative action programs;

27                   (K) alcohol and drug abuse; and

1           (L) other pertinent issues;

2           (4) serve as a clearinghouse of information for other  
3 agencies and organizations concerned with issues of importance to  
4 Hispanic citizens; and

5           (5) distribute the results of its studies and policy  
6 proposals to appropriate federal, state, and local governmental  
7 agencies and officials, community organizations, private leaders,  
8 and the public.

9           Sec. 470.009. ASSISTANCE. The Texas Economic Development  
10 and Tourism Office and state institutions of higher education shall  
11 assist the bureau in carrying out its duties.

12           Sec. 470.010. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The bureau may accept gifts  
13 and grants from any source to be used to carry out the bureau's  
14 duties. The bureau shall actively seek gifts from businesses and  
15 organizations that represent businesses to support the bureau's  
16 functions.

17           SECTION 2. In making the initial appointments to the Bureau  
18 for Economic Development and Hispanic Studies, the governor shall  
19 designate six members for terms expiring February 1, 2011, six  
20 members for terms expiring February 1, 2013, and six members for  
21 terms expiring February 1, 2015.

22           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.