

AN ACT

relating to creating a task force to develop uniform standards for subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of counties near the international border and in economically distressed counties.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the current law regarding the regulation of subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of counties near the international border and in economically distressed counties should be reviewed to ensure that statutory provisions are consistent and clearly achieve the goals of promoting uniform subdivision standards in those counties and enhancing the quality of living for the residents of those subdivisions.

SECTION 2. (a) The Task Force on Uniform County Subdivision Regulation is composed of 23 members as follows:

(1) six members who are county officials or employees responsible for regulating subdivisions under Subchapter B, Chapter 232, Local Government Code, appointed by the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board from each of the following counties:

(A) El Paso;

(B) Webb;

(C) Starr;

(D) Hidalgo;

1 (E) Cameron; and

2 (F) Nueces;

3 (2) six members who are members of organizations that  
4 represent the interests of colonia residents, appointed by the  
5 executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
6 Affairs;

7 (3) three members who are county officials or  
8 employees responsible for regulating subdivisions under Subchapter  
9 C, Chapter 232, Local Government Code, appointed by the executive  
10 administrator of the Texas Water Development Board;

11 (4) one member who is a representative of the Texas  
12 Water Development Board and is appointed by the executive  
13 administrator of the board;

14 (5) one member who has legal expertise in subdivision  
15 regulation appointed by the attorney general to represent the  
16 interests of the state;

17 (6) the secretary of state or a designee of the  
18 secretary of state who has expertise in matters affecting colonias;

19 (7) three members who are appointed by the president  
20 of the Texas Association of Builders to represent the interests of  
21 builders and land developers;

22 (8) one member who is a representative of the Texas  
23 Conference of Urban Counties appointed by the executive director of  
24 that organization; and

25 (9) one member who is a representative of the County  
26 Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas appointed by the  
27 president of that association.

1           (b) The members of the Task Force on Uniform County  
2 Subdivision Regulation shall elect a presiding officer, a  
3 secretary, and any other officers the members consider necessary.

4           (c) Appointments to the Task Force on Uniform County  
5 Subdivision Regulation shall be made without regard to race, color,  
6 disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin of the  
7 appointees.

8           (d) A member of the task force who is a state or county  
9 employee is not entitled to additional compensation for serving on  
10 the task force, but is entitled to reimbursement for the member's  
11 actual and necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task  
12 force and performing other official duties authorized by the  
13 presiding officer if the reimbursement is otherwise available to  
14 the member as a state or county employee. A member of the task force  
15 may not be paid compensation or reimbursement for travel or other  
16 expenses from state funds unless the legislature makes a specific  
17 appropriation for that purpose.

18           (e) The Texas Water Development Board shall provide  
19 administrative support to the task force, including necessary staff  
20 and meeting facilities. The Texas Water Development Board may  
21 require the task force to conduct meetings at a location that is  
22 geographically convenient to a majority of the members of the task  
23 force or in various geographic regions of the state.

24           (f) The task force, through the Texas Water Development  
25 Board, may accept gifts and grants from individuals, private or  
26 public organizations, or federal or local funds to support the task  
27 force.

1           (g) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the  
2 task force.

3           SECTION 3. The Task Force on Uniform County Subdivision  
4 Regulation shall:

5                 (1) research and identify the conflicts and  
6 deficiencies in current law regarding the regulation of the  
7 development of subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of counties  
8 near the international border and in economically distressed  
9 counties; and

10                (2) develop recommendations and draft a proposal for  
11 legislation to create uniform standards for the regulation of the  
12 development of subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of counties  
13 near the international border and in economically distressed  
14 counties.

15           SECTION 4. Not later than December 1, 2010, the Task Force  
16 on Uniform County Subdivision Regulation shall submit its findings,  
17 recommendations, and proposal for legislation to the standing  
18 committees of the senate and house of representatives having  
19 primary jurisdiction over border regions or county affairs.

20           SECTION 5. The Task Force on Uniform County Subdivision  
21 Regulation is abolished and this Act expires on September 2, 2011.

22           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2275 was passed by the House on March 31, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2275 on May 23, 2009, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2275 on May 31, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 118, Nays 27, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 2275

I certify that H.B. No. 2275 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2275 on May 31, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor