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H.B. No. 4067

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Bureau for Economic Development of
the Border Region.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
by adding Chapter 471 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 471. BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER REGION

Sec. 471.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Border region" means the portion of this state
located:

(A) not more than 100 kilometers from the state's
international border; or

(B) in a county located on an international
border.

(2) "Bureau" means the Bureau for Economic Development
of the Border Region.

Sec. 471.002. BUREAU; MEMBERS. (a) The Bureau for Economic
Development of the Border Region is a partnership of participating
public and private entities administered by a public or private
institution of higher education that is designated by the steering
committee of the bureau and agrees to serve in that capacity.

(b) The bureau has a steering committee that consists of
seven members as follows:

(1) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

1 (2) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives;

3 (3) three members appointed by the administration of
4 the institution of higher education; and

5 (4) the chair of:

6 (A) the House Committee on Border and
7 Intergovernmental Affairs; and

8 (B) the senate committee to which border affairs
9 are referred.

10 (c) The members of the bureau's steering committee
11 appointed under Subsections (b)(1) and (2) must be residents of the
12 border region. The other appointed members of the steering
13 committee may but are not required to be residents of the border
14 region.

15 (d) Members of the bureau's steering committee shall be
16 selected to provide the bureau expertise relating to financial
17 planning and development, construction, engineering, and trade.

18 (e) The institution of higher education that administers
19 the bureau shall provide educational expertise to the bureau.

20 Sec. 471.003. TERMS. The appointed members of the bureau's
21 steering committee serve staggered terms of two years, with as near
22 as possible to one-half of the members' terms expiring February 1 of
23 each year.

24 Sec. 471.004. MEETINGS; OFFICERS. (a) The bureau's
25 steering committee shall hold at least one regular meeting
26 annually.

27 (b) At its first meeting, the steering committee shall

1 select from its membership a presiding officer.

2 (c) The steering committee shall meet subject to the call of
3 the chairperson.

4 Sec. 471.005. FUNDING. (a) In addition to any amount
5 appropriated by the legislature, the bureau may apply for and
6 accept funds from the federal government or any other public or
7 private entity. The bureau or any member of the bureau's steering
8 committee may also solicit and accept pledges, gifts, and
9 endowments from private sources on the bureau's behalf. A pledge,
10 gift, or endowment solicited under this section must be consistent
11 with the purposes of the bureau.

12 (b) The bureau shall manage and approve disbursements of any
13 appropriations, funds, pledges, gifts, and endowments that are the
14 property of the bureau.

15 Sec. 471.006. DUTIES. The bureau shall:

16 (1) facilitate research in fields of study affecting
17 the economy in the border region;

18 (2) deliver economic and financial education to
19 persons living in the border region;

20 (3) draft and submit reports to advise the legislature
21 about economic development opportunities in the border region;

22 (4) provide evaluation of specific proposals for use
23 of economic development funds in the border region, including tax
24 abatement agreements;

25 (5) consult with the Texas Economic Development and
26 Tourism Office within the office of the governor on issues related
27 to the border region;

1 (6) study and report on opportunities to improve trade
2 across the international border; and

3 (7) make recommendations to the legislature about
4 establishment of infrastructure projects to assist multiple
5 counties in the border region.

6 Sec. 471.007. GIFTS AND GRANTS; OTHER ASSISTANCE. (a) The
7 bureau may accept gifts and grants from any source to be used to
8 carry out the bureau's duties. The bureau shall actively seek gifts
9 from businesses and organizations that represent businesses to
10 support the bureau's functions.

11 (b) The institution of higher education that administers
12 the bureau may provide facilities and services to further the
13 purposes of the bureau.

14 SECTION 2. (a) In appointing the initial appointed members
15 of the steering committee of the Bureau for Economic Development of
16 the Border Region, as added by this Act:

17 (1) the lieutenant governor shall appoint one member
18 to serve a term expiring February 1, 2010;

19 (2) the speaker of the house of representatives shall
20 appoint one member to serve a term expiring February 1, 2010; and

21 (3) the administration of the institution of higher
22 education that administers the bureau shall appoint one member to
23 serve a term expiring February 1, 2010, and two members to serve a
24 term expiring February 1, 2011.

25 (b) As soon as practicable after the initial appointed
26 members of the steering committee of the Bureau for Economic
27 Development of the Border Region have been appointed in accordance

1 with Sections 471.002(b)(1) and (2), Government Code, as added by
2 this Act, and have qualified for office, the initial members of the
3 steering committee that have been appointed under Sections
4 471.002(b)(1) and (2), Government Code, as added by this Act, and
5 the initial members designated under Section 471.002(b)(4),
6 Government Code, as added by this Act, shall designate the
7 institution of higher education as required by Section 471.002,
8 Government Code, as added by this Act.

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