

By: Gonzales

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 within 100 kilometers of this state's international border.

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

Sec. 471.002. BUREAU; MEMBERS. (a) The bureau is an agency of the state.

(b) The bureau consists of nine members appointed as follows:

(1) two members appointed by the governor;

(2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house;

(4) one member appointed by the secretary of state;

and

(5) as ex officio members, the chairperson of:

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

1 (B) the senate committee to which border affairs
2 are referred.

3 (c) Bureau members shall be selected to provide the bureau
4 technical expertise in financial planning and development,
5 construction, engineering, trade, and other appropriate criteria.

6 Sec. 471.003. TERMS. Appointed members serve staggered
7 terms of two years, with as near as possible to one-half of the
8 members' terms expiring February 1 of each year.

9 Sec. 471.004. MEETINGS; OFFICERS; OFFICE. (a) The bureau
10 shall hold at least one regular meeting in the first quarter of each
11 calendar year.

12 (b) At its first meeting in each odd-numbered year, the
13 bureau shall select from its membership a chairperson.

14 (c) The bureau shall meet subject to the call of the
15 chairperson.

16 Sec. 471.005. EXPENSES. A member of the bureau is entitled
17 to reimbursement for expenses incurred for service on the bureau,
18 as provided by the General Appropriations Act. A member may not
19 receive any compensation for that service.

20 Sec. 471.006. SUNSET PROVISION. The bureau is subject to
21 Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as
22 provided by that chapter, the bureau is abolished and this chapter
23 expires September 1, 2021.

24 Sec. 471.007. DUTIES. The bureau shall:

25 (1) draft and submit reports to advise the legislature
26 about economic development opportunities in the border region;

27 (2) provide evaluation of specific proposals for use

1 of economic development funds in the border region, including tax
2 abatement agreements;

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

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

8 (5) consult with the division of planning coordination
9 within the governor's office under Section 772.004 about issues
10 related to the border region that mutually concern the bureau and
11 the division; and

12 (6) make recommendations to the legislature about
13 establishment of infrastructure projects to assist multiple
14 counties in the border region.

15 Sec. 471.008. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The bureau may accept gifts
16 and grants from any source to be used to carry out the bureau's
17 duties. The bureau shall actively seek gifts from businesses and
18 organizations that represent businesses to support the bureau's
19 functions.

20 SECTION 2. In appointing the initial appointed members of
21 the Bureau for Economic Development of the Border Region, as added
22 by this Act:

23 (1) the governor shall appoint one member to serve a
24 term expiring February 1, 2010, and one member to serve a term
25 expiring February 1, 2011;

26 (2) the lieutenant governor shall appoint one member
27 to serve a term expiring February 1, 2010, and one member to serve a

1 term expiring February 1, 2011;

2 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives shall
3 appoint one member to serve a term expiring February 1, 2010, and
4 one member to serve a term expiring February 1, 2011; and

5 (4) the secretary of state shall appoint one member to
6 serve a term expiring February 1, 2011.

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