

1-1 By: Gonzales, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 4067  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 13, 2009;  
1-3 May 14, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 International Relations and Trade; May 20, 2009, reported  
1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 20, 2009, sent  
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the creation of the Bureau for Economic Development of  
1-10 the Border Region.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 4, Government Code, is amended  
1-13 by adding Chapter 471 to read as follows:

1-14 CHAPTER 471. BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER REGION

1-15 Sec. 471.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-16 (1) "Border region" means the portion of this state  
1-17 located:

1-18 (A) not more than 100 kilometers from the state's  
1-19 international border; or

1-20 (B) in a county located on an international  
1-21 border.

1-22 (2) "Bureau" means the Bureau for Economic Development  
1-23 of the Border Region.

1-24 Sec. 471.002. BUREAU; MEMBERS. (a) The Bureau for Economic  
1-25 Development of the Border Region is a partnership of participating  
1-26 public and private entities administered by a public or private  
1-27 institution of higher education that is designated by the steering  
1-28 committee of the bureau and agrees to serve in that capacity.

1-29 (b) The bureau has a steering committee that consists of  
1-30 seven members as follows:

1-31 (1) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

1-32 (2) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of  
1-33 representatives;

1-34 (3) three members appointed by the administration of  
1-35 the institution of higher education; and

1-36 (4) the chair of:

1-37 (A) the House Committee on Border and  
1-38 Intergovernmental Affairs; and

1-39 (B) the senate committee to which border affairs  
1-40 are referred.

1-41 (c) The members of the bureau's steering committee  
1-42 appointed under Subsections (b)(1) and (2) must be residents of the  
1-43 border region. The other appointed members of the steering  
1-44 committee may but are not required to be residents of the border  
1-45 region.

1-46 (d) Members of the bureau's steering committee shall be  
1-47 selected to provide the bureau expertise relating to financial  
1-48 planning and development, construction, engineering, and trade.

1-49 (e) The institution of higher education that administers  
1-50 the bureau shall provide educational expertise to the bureau.

1-51 Sec. 471.003. TERMS. The appointed members of the bureau's  
1-52 steering committee serve staggered terms of two years, with as near  
1-53 as possible to one-half of the members' terms expiring February 1 of  
1-54 each year.

1-55 Sec. 471.004. MEETINGS; OFFICERS. (a) The bureau's  
1-56 steering committee shall hold at least one regular meeting  
1-57 annually.

1-58 (b) At its first meeting, the steering committee shall  
1-59 select from its membership a presiding officer.

1-60 (c) The steering committee shall meet subject to the call of  
1-61 the chairperson.

1-62 Sec. 471.005. FUNDING. (a) In addition to any amount  
1-63 appropriated by the legislature, the bureau may apply for and  
1-64 accept funds from the federal government or any other public or

2-1 private entity. The bureau or any member of the bureau's steering  
 2-2 committee may also solicit and accept pledges, gifts, and  
 2-3 endowments from private sources on the bureau's behalf. A pledge,  
 2-4 gift, or endowment solicited under this section must be consistent  
 2-5 with the purposes of the bureau.

2-6 (b) The bureau shall manage and approve disbursements of any  
 2-7 appropriations, funds, pledges, gifts, and endowments that are the  
 2-8 property of the bureau.

2-9 Sec. 471.006. DUTIES. The bureau shall:

2-10 (1) facilitate research in fields of study affecting  
 2-11 the economy in the border region;

2-12 (2) deliver economic and financial education to  
 2-13 persons living in the border region;

2-14 (3) draft and submit reports to advise the legislature  
 2-15 about economic development opportunities in the border region;

2-16 (4) provide evaluation of specific proposals for use  
 2-17 of economic development funds in the border region, including tax  
 2-18 abatement agreements;

2-19 (5) consult with the Texas Economic Development and  
 2-20 Tourism Office within the office of the governor on issues related  
 2-21 to the border region;

2-22 (6) study and report on opportunities to improve trade  
 2-23 across the international border; and

2-24 (7) make recommendations to the legislature about  
 2-25 establishment of infrastructure projects to assist multiple  
 2-26 counties in the border region.

2-27 Sec. 471.007. GIFTS AND GRANTS; OTHER ASSISTANCE. (a) The  
 2-28 bureau may accept gifts and grants from any source to be used to  
 2-29 carry out the bureau's duties. The bureau shall actively seek gifts  
 2-30 from businesses and organizations that represent businesses to  
 2-31 support the bureau's functions.

2-32 (b) The institution of higher education that administers  
 2-33 the bureau may provide facilities and services to further the  
 2-34 purposes of the bureau.

2-35 SECTION 2. (a) In appointing the initial appointed members  
 2-36 of the steering committee of the Bureau for Economic Development of  
 2-37 the Border Region, as added by this Act:

2-38 (1) the lieutenant governor shall appoint one member  
 2-39 to serve a term expiring February 1, 2010;

2-40 (2) the speaker of the house of representatives shall  
 2-41 appoint one member to serve a term expiring February 1, 2010; and

2-42 (3) the administration of the institution of higher  
 2-43 education that administers the bureau shall appoint one member to  
 2-44 serve a term expiring February 1, 2010, and two members to serve a  
 2-45 term expiring February 1, 2011.

2-46 (b) As soon as practicable after the initial appointed  
 2-47 members of the steering committee of the Bureau for Economic  
 2-48 Development of the Border Region have been appointed in accordance  
 2-49 with Sections 471.002(b)(1) and (2), Government Code, as added by  
 2-50 this Act, and have qualified for office, the initial members of the  
 2-51 steering committee that have been appointed under Sections  
 2-52 471.002(b)(1) and (2), Government Code, as added by this Act, and  
 2-53 the initial members designated under Section 471.002(b)(4),  
 2-54 Government Code, as added by this Act, shall designate the  
 2-55 institution of higher education as required by Section 471.002,  
 2-56 Government Code, as added by this Act.

2-57 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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