

By: Gonzales

H.B. No. 4652

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to issues affecting the region adjacent and within 100 kilometers of the international border with Mexico.

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

SECTION 1. (a) 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 (b) In appointing the initial appointed members of the  
21 Bureau for Economic Development of the Border Region, as added by  
22 this section:

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 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.