

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 343

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of an advisory committee to study the
3 retail availability of healthy foods in certain underserved areas
4 of this state.

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

6 SECTION 1. HEALTHY FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
7 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
8 and the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture shall jointly
9 establish an advisory committee to study and provide
10 recommendations to the legislature regarding:

11 (1) the areas of this state that are underserved in the
12 retail availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other
13 healthy foods; and

14 (2) the impact of the limited retail availability on
15 proper nutrition and on obesity and related chronic illnesses.

16 (b) The advisory committee consists of eight members as
17 follows:

18 (1) four members appointed by the executive
19 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission; and

20 (2) four members appointed by the commissioner of the
21 Department of Agriculture.

22 (c) An advisory committee member is not entitled to
23 reimbursement of expenses or to compensation.

24 (d) The advisory committee shall meet not later than the

1 30th day after the date the initial appointments are made and shall
2 select a presiding officer. The committee shall meet regularly as
3 necessary at the call of the presiding officer.

4 (e) The advisory committee shall:

5 (1) investigate the retail availability of fresh
6 fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods in this state;

7 (2) develop recommendations for creating and a plan
8 for implementing a statewide financing program to bring fresh food
9 retailers into areas of this state that are underserved in regard to
10 the retail availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other
11 healthy foods; and

12 (3) perform other advisory duties as requested by the
13 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
14 or the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture regarding the
15 availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods
16 in this state.

17 (f) Not later than September 1, 2010, the advisory committee
18 shall submit to the legislature a report outlining:

19 (1) the costs, benefits, and feasibility of a
20 statewide financing program to bring fresh food retailers into
21 areas of this state that are underserved in regard to the retail
22 availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy
23 foods; and

24 (2) a plan for implementing the program.

25 SECTION 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAW. Chapter 2110,
26 Government Code, does not apply to the advisory committee
27 established under this Act.

1 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION. The advisory committee established
2 under this Act is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2011.

3 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
4 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
5 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
6 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
7 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.