

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 2169

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a smart growth policy work group and the development of a smart growth policy for this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 10, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2060 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2060. SMART GROWTH POLICY

Sec. 2060.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "work group" means the work group on smart growth policy established under this chapter.

Sec. 2060.002. WORK GROUP ON SMART GROWTH POLICY. (a) The work group is composed of a representative from the following agencies appointed by the executive head of the agency:

(1) the comptroller's office;

(2) the Texas Department of Transportation;

(3) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

(4) the Department of State Health Services;

(5) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

(6) the Texas Workforce Commission;

(7) the General Land Office;

(8) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;

(9) the Railroad Commission of Texas;

(10) the Department of Agriculture;

1           (11) the Texas Education Agency; and

2           (12) other state or regional agencies considered  
3 necessary by the co-presiding officers of the work group.

4           (b) The representatives from the Texas Department of  
5 Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and  
6 the Department of State Health Services shall serve as co-presiding  
7 officers of the work group.

8           (c) The work group shall hold regular meetings.

9           Sec. 2060.003. DUTIES OF WORK GROUP. (a) The work group  
10 shall collaborate and develop a comprehensive smart growth plan for  
11 the state to prepare for the projected population growth in the  
12 state.

13           (b) In developing the plan, the work group shall consider  
14 and develop policies for addressing:

15                   (1) the quality of community life;

16                   (2) the design of municipalities, counties, and  
17 regions;

18                   (3) economic issues;

19                   (4) environmental issues;

20                   (5) health issues;

21                   (6) housing issues;

22                   (7) transportation issues;

23                   (8) mixed land use;

24                   (9) gentrification;

25                   (10) development decisions that are predictable,  
26 fair, and cost-effective; and

27                   (11) the encouragement of community and stakeholder

1 collaboration in development decisions.

2 (c) The work group shall coordinate with councils of  
3 government, regional mobility organizations, metropolitan planning  
4 associations, and smart growth experts in the public and private  
5 sectors, including the United States Environmental Protection  
6 Agency and planning departments in other states.

7 (d) The work group shall solicit and obtain input from  
8 relevant stakeholders.

9 Sec. 2060.004. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than  
10 January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the work group shall submit a  
11 report to the legislature on the smart growth plan and policies  
12 developed by the work group under this chapter.

13 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2009, the executive  
14 head of each agency included on the work group under Chapter 2060,  
15 Government Code, as added by this Act, shall appoint a  
16 representative to the work group on smart growth policy.

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