

By: Deshotel

H.B. No. 699

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the Port Authority Advisory Committee and funding of
3 port security, transportation, and facility projects and port
4 studies.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 55.001(5), Transportation Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (5) "Port security, transportation, or facility
9 project" means a project that is necessary or convenient for the
10 proper operation of a maritime port and that will improve the
11 security, movement, and intermodal transportation of cargo or
12 passengers in commerce and trade.

13 SECTION 2. Section 55.002(b), Transportation Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (b) The commission may by rule establish matching fund
16 requirements for receiving money from the fund [~~department may not~~
17 ~~fund a port security, transportation, or facility project unless an~~
18 ~~amount at least equal to the amount provided by the department is~~
19 ~~invested in the project by a port authority or navigation~~
20 ~~district~~].

21 SECTION 3. Section 55.006(a), Transportation Code, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (a) The committee consists of seven members appointed by the
24 commission. The members shall be appointed as follows:

- 1 (1) one member from the Port of Houston Authority;
- 2 (2) three members who represent maritime ports on the
3 upper Texas coast; and
- 4 (3) three members who represent maritime ports on the
5 lower Texas coast.

6 SECTION 4. Section 55.007, Transportation Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 55.007. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE. The committee shall:

- 9 (1) prepare a port mission plan;
- 10 (2) review each project eligible to be funded under
11 this chapter and make recommendations for approval or disapproval
12 to the department;
- 13 (3) not later than December 1 of each even-numbered
14 year, prepare and submit to the commission a report for
15 distribution to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the
16 speaker of the house of representatives on the state of maritime
17 ports in this state, including:
 - 18 (A) information regarding types of cargo passing
19 through maritime ports;
 - 20 (B) information regarding employment at maritime
21 ports;
 - 22 (C) information regarding tax revenues from
23 maritime port activities;
 - 24 (D) any other information on the economic impact
25 of port activities that the committee considers relevant; and
 - 26 (E) [~~maintain trade data information that will~~
27 ~~assist ports in this state and international trade;~~

1 ~~[(4) annually prepare]~~ a list of projects that have
2 been recommended by the committee, including:

3 (i) ~~[(A)]~~ the recommended funding level
4 for each project; and

5 (ii) ~~[(B)]~~ if staged implementation of the
6 project is appropriate, the funding requirements for each stage;
7 and

8 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ advise the commission and the department on
9 matters relating to port authorities.

10 SECTION 5. Section 55.008, Transportation Code, is
11 repealed.

12 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.