

By: Castro

H.B. No. 1654

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a commission to study drowsy driving.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Drowsy Driving Study Commission is created to study the effect of drowsy driving on highway safety.

The commission shall:

(1) study the effects of sleep deprivation on persons operating a motor vehicle on public roadways;

(2) determine scientific and legal standards to be applied by law enforcement officials and the court system in determining whether a driver is operating a motor vehicle while sleep deprived;

(3) suggest appropriate sanctions for operating a motor vehicle while sleep deprived; and

(4) develop programs to:

(A) educate drivers about the effects of driving while sleep deprived; and

(B) train law enforcement officials to recognize the symptoms of sleep deprivation.

(b) The commission is composed of seven members as follows:

(1) one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(2) one member of the senate, appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

1 (3) five members appointed by the governor, of which:

2 (A) one is a member of the academic or medical
3 community with expertise in sleep deprivation research;

4 (B) one is a representative of the Texas
5 Department of Transportation;

6 (C) one is a representative of the Department of
7 Public Safety;

8 (D) one is a representative of the Texas
9 Transportation Institute; and

10 (E) one is a member of the public.

11 (c) The speaker of the house of representatives shall select
12 one member of the commission to serve as chair of the commission.

13 (d) A member of the commission is not entitled to
14 reimbursement of expenses or to compensation.

15 (e) The commission may accept gifts and grants from any
16 source to be used to carry out a function of the commission.

17 (f) On the commission's request, the comptroller or any
18 other state agency, department, or office shall provide any
19 assistance the commission needs to perform the commission's duties.

20 (g) Not later than July 1, 2012, the commission shall issue
21 a report summarizing:

22 (1) the commission's findings and recommendations;

23 (2) any legislation proposed by the commission; and

24 (3) any administrative recommendations proposed by
25 the commission.

26 (h) The commission shall promptly deliver copies of the
27 report, and drafts of any proposed legislation and administrative

1 recommendations necessary to implement the commission's findings,
2 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
3 representatives.

4 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2011, the governor,
5 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
6 shall appoint the members to the Drowsy Driving Study Commission
7 established under Section 1 of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act expires and the Drowsy Driving Study
9 Commission is abolished on January 1, 2013.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.