

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 3503

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Fiscal Stability Commission.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "commission" means the Texas Fiscal Stability Commission.

SECTION 2. MISSION OF TEXAS FISCAL STABILITY COMMISSION.

(a) The mission of the Texas Fiscal Stability Commission is to provide the state legislature recommendations for improving the state's ability to provide a stable, long-term source of revenue for educating the people of Texas from pre-kindergarten through higher education while maintaining low state and local tax rates relative to other states and ensuring tax efforts of households and business sectors are equitably shared.

(b) The commission shall develop a comprehensive plan that includes tax and budget recommendations to eliminate the state's structural revenue shortfall.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF TEXAS FISCAL STABILITY COMMISSION. (a) The Texas Fiscal Stability Commission is composed of 19 members as follows:

(1) the chair of the House Appropriations Committee and House Ways and Means Commission;

(2) the chair and vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Finance;

(3) two state representatives and three public members

1 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2 (4) two state senators and three public members
3 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

4 (5) five public members appointed by the Governor;

5 (b) A person specified by Subsection (a) of this section to
6 appoint a commission member shall make the appointment not later
7 than November 1, 2011.

8 (c) The Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives shall select one member of the commission to serve
10 as the chair and another member to serve as the vice chair.

11 (d) The commission shall meet at the call of the chair.

12 (e) The commission shall hold public hearings at locations
13 throughout the state to hear testimony on issues related to its
14 mission.

15 (f) A commission member may not receive compensation for
16 serving on the commission but is entitled to reimbursement of
17 travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting the
18 business of the commission as provided by the General
19 Appropriations Act.

20 (g) The commission shall submit the state fiscal stability
21 plan under Section 2 of this Act to the Senate Finance Commission,
22 the House Appropriations Commission, the House Ways and Means
23 Committee, and the Legislative Budget Board not later than June 1,
24 2012.

25 (h) The commission is abolished September 1, 2013.

26 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
27 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members

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1 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
2 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
3 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.