

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 2686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a regional food economy and food access task force.

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

SECTION 1. REGIONAL FOOD ECONOMY AND FOOD ACCESS TASK FORCE. (a) The regional food economy and food access task force is created to study and provide recommendations to the legislature on developing this state's regional food economy and improving access to healthy food for the people in this state.

(b) The task force consists of nine members appointed as follows:

(1) one member who is a representative of the food retail industry with experience in grocery stores, appointed by the governor;

(2) one member who is a representative of the food retail industry with experience in convenience stores, appointed by the governor;

(3) one member who is a representative of a community development financial institution, appointed by the governor;

(4) one member who is a large-scale farmer, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(5) one member who is a small-scale farmer, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, with experience in

1 farmers markets, appointed by the lieutenant governor;

2 (6) one member who is a representative of a food bank,
3 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

4 (7) one member who is a representative of a regional
5 food advocacy group, appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives;

7 (8) one representative of the Texas Department of
8 Agriculture, appointed by the commissioner of agriculture; and

9 (9) one representative of the Texas A&M AgriLife
10 Extension Service, appointed by the chancellor of The Texas A&M
11 University System.

12 (c) The representative of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
13 Service serves as the presiding officer of the task force.

14 (d) A task force member is not entitled to compensation or
15 reimbursement of expenses.

16 (e) The task force shall:

17 (1) examine the following food economy goals:

18 (A) creating and retaining family-wage jobs;

19 (B) expanding export and local markets for
20 regional products;

21 (C) developing regional public-private
22 partnerships and leveraging existing public-private partnership
23 efforts; and

24 (D) improving access to healthy food and food
25 security, protecting natural resources, and enhancing community
26 connections; and

27 (2) develop recommendations for legislation and state

1 agency programming that will improve this state's regional food
2 economy and improve access to healthy food for the people in this
3 state.

4 (f) The task force shall meet not later than the 30th day
5 after the date the last initial appointment is made. The task force
6 shall meet regularly as necessary at the call of the presiding
7 officer.

8 (g) Not later than September 1, 2014, the task force shall:

9 (1) submit to the legislature a report outlining
10 legislative recommendations and recommendations for state agency
11 programming; and

12 (2) provide a presentation on the task force's
13 recommendations to the standing committee of each house of the
14 legislature with primary jurisdiction over economic development.

15 SECTION 2. EXPIRATION. The task force established under
16 this Act is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2015.

17 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
18 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
19 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
20 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
21 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.