

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1704

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to cooperation with federal agencies on immigration issues
in this state; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 751, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter C to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR
IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Sec. 751.051. BORDER SECURITY. The office, in consultation
with the Department of Public Safety, shall seek to enter into a
memorandum of understanding or other agreement with the appropriate
federal agency to implement a border security strategy in this
state. The border security strategy requested may include, subject
to the receipt of federal aid or funding:

(1) an increase in the number of federal border
officers working on the Texas-Mexico border;

(2) strategic fencing in certain urban areas near the
Texas-Mexico border;

(3) increased land and sea border patrols;

(4) flights of unmanned aerial vehicles to monitor
border activity;

(5) use of infrared cameras and other technology to
assist in identifying persons attempting to cross the border
illegally;

1 (6) continued communication and cooperation with
2 federal law enforcement authorities; and

3 (7) improved extradition agreements with Mexico and
4 other countries.

5 Sec. 751.052. GUEST WORKER PROGRAM. The office, in
6 consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission, shall seek to
7 enter into a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with
8 the appropriate federal agency to authorize or grant a waiver for a
9 pilot guest worker program to be implemented in order to bring
10 skilled and unskilled workers into this state during periods of
11 time when no Texan workers are available to fill open employment
12 positions. The proposed pilot program would:

13 (1) be self-funding through participation fees and
14 fines;

15 (2) require applicants to:

16 (A) pass a criminal background check;

17 (B) show some proficiency in the English
18 language; and

19 (C) submit proof of health insurance coverage
20 provided by the applicant's employer or purchased by the applicant;

21 (3) limit participation to employers that deduct and
22 match payroll taxes; and

23 (4) provide for an identification card for program
24 participants that would assist in monitoring any criminal and civil
25 court appearances.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.