

By: González, Farrar, White of Tyler, Blanco

H.B. No. 63

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state collaboration with federally recognized Indian tribes.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the State-Tribal Collaboration Act.

SECTION 2. Subtitle E, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 471 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 471. STATE COLLABORATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES

Sec. 471.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "American Indian" means an individual who is:

(A) a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe; or

(B) eligible for federal services and programs provided to American Indians, including services and programs provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(2) "Indian tribe" means a federally recognized tribe, band, pueblo, or community of American Indians located wholly or partially in this state.

(3) "State agency" means an agency, department, office, or other entity in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government and includes an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

1 Sec. 471.002. ANNUAL MEETING. Not later than the last day
2 of the third quarter of each state fiscal year, the office of the
3 governor and the leaders of Indian tribes shall meet to address
4 issues of mutual concern. An employee of the governor's office, a
5 member of the legislature, or an employee of an appropriate state
6 agency may attend the meeting.

7 Sec. 471.003. RIGHT OF ACTION. Nothing in this chapter
8 creates a right of action against a state agency or waives state or
9 tribal immunity.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.