

By: Bonnen of Galveston

H.B. No. 1984

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the aerospace and aviation office of the Texas Economic
3 Development and Tourism Office and to the aerospace and aviation
4 advisory committee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 481.0066, Government Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsections (d-1),
8 (d-2), (e-1), and (e-2) to read as follows:

9 (d) The aerospace and aviation office shall:

10 (1) analyze space-related and aviation-related
11 research currently conducted in this state and may conduct
12 activities designed to further that research;

13 (2) analyze the state's economic position in the
14 aerospace and aviation industries;

15 (3) develop short-term and long-term business
16 strategies as part of an industry-specific strategic plan to
17 promote the retention, development, and expansion of aerospace and
18 aviation industry facilities in the state that is consistent with
19 and complementary of the office strategic plan;

20 (4) make specific recommendations to the legislature
21 and the governor regarding the promotion of those industries;

22 (5) as part of and to further the purposes of the
23 industry-specific strategic plan described by Subdivision (3),
24 develop short-term and long-term policy initiatives or recommend

1 reforms the state may undertake or implement to:

2 (A) increase commercial provider investment in
3 aerospace activities;

4 (B) support the retention, development, and
5 expansion of spaceports in this state;

6 (C) create a business-friendly environment to
7 assist commercial providers in the aerospace industry in conducting
8 business in this state;

9 (D) promote, develop, and expand tourism related
10 to the aerospace industry;

11 (E) identify and encourage educational,
12 economic, and defense-related opportunities for aerospace
13 activities;

14 (F) increase funding for the spaceport trust fund
15 created under Section 481.0069 and support ongoing projects that
16 have been assisted by the fund, including recommending to the
17 legislature an appropriate funding level for the fund;

18 (G) foster technological advancement and
19 economic development for spaceport activities by strengthening
20 higher education programs and supporting aerospace activities; and

21 (H) support initiatives that address the
22 high-technology skills and staff resources needed to better promote
23 the state's efforts in becoming the leading space exploration state
24 in the nation;

25 (6) act as a liaison with other state and federal
26 entities with related economic, educational, and defense
27 responsibilities to support the marketing of the state's aerospace

1 and aviation capabilities;

2 (7) [~~(6)~~] provide technical support and expertise to
3 the state and to local spaceport authorities regarding aerospace
4 and aviation business matters; and

5 (8) [~~(7)~~] be responsible for the promotion and
6 development of spaceports in this state.

7 (d-1) The aerospace and aviation office shall make specific
8 short-term and long-term statutory, administrative, and
9 budget-related recommendations to the legislature and the governor
10 regarding the policy initiatives and reforms described by
11 Subsection (d)(5) that may be implemented by the state. The
12 short-term recommendations must include two-year and four-year
13 plans for state action that may be implemented or achieved on or
14 before September 1, 2019, and September 1, 2021, respectively. The
15 long-term recommendations must include 5-year, 10-year, and
16 15-year plans for state action that may be implemented or achieved
17 on or before September 1, 2022, September 1, 2027, and September 1,
18 2032, respectively. The aerospace and aviation office shall submit
19 these recommendations to the legislature and governor with the
20 biennial report required by Subsection (d-2) not later than
21 December 1, 2016. This subsection expires September 1, 2017.

22 (d-2) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
23 the aerospace and aviation office shall submit to the legislature
24 and governor, in printed or electronic form, a report detailing the
25 actions taken by the aerospace and aviation office in carrying out
26 the policy initiatives and reforms under Subsection (d)(5) to
27 further the purposes of the industry-specific strategic plan as

1 specified in the recommendations required by Subsection (d-1),
2 including:

- 3 (1) the status of all projects and activities;
- 4 (2) the funding of expenditures;
- 5 (3) the planning and research conducted;
- 6 (4) the provision of community and technical
7 assistance;

- 8 (5) the collection of information; and
- 9 (6) an explanation of the ways in which the aerospace
10 and aviation office has promoted the state's economic development
11 goals through increased space exploration activities.

12 (e) The governor shall appoint an aerospace and aviation
13 advisory committee consisting of seven qualified members to assist
14 in the state's economic development efforts to recruit and retain
15 aerospace and aviation jobs and investment. The committee must
16 consist of:

- 17 (1) one member who represents the interests of an
18 active spaceport development corporation created in the lower Gulf
19 Coast area of the state;

- 20 (2) one member who represents the interests of an
21 active spaceport development corporation created in the West Texas
22 area of the state;

- 23 (3) three members with an aerospace professional
24 background who are selected from each of the following geographical
25 areas of the state:

- 26 (A) upper Gulf Coast area;
- 27 (B) Central Texas area; and

1 (C) North Texas area; and

2 (4) two members who are selected from the state at
3 large.

4 (e-1) The aerospace and aviation advisory committee shall:

5 (1) advise the governor on the recruitment and
6 retention of aerospace and aviation jobs and investment;

7 (2) assist the office and the aerospace and aviation
8 office in meeting the state's economic development efforts to
9 recruit and retain aerospace and aviation jobs and investment;

10 (3) advise the office, the aerospace and aviation
11 office, and the governor on an appropriate funding level for the
12 spaceport trust fund;

13 (4) advise the office, the aerospace and aviation
14 office, and the governor on recruitment, retention, and expansion
15 of aerospace and aviation industry activities, including aerospace
16 tourism initiatives; and

17 (5) collect and disseminate information on federal,
18 state, local, and private community economic development programs
19 that assist or provide loans, grants, or other funding to aerospace
20 industry activities.

21 (e-2) Members of the aerospace and aviation advisory
22 committee:

23 (1) shall serve staggered four-year terms; and

24 (2) may not receive compensation for serving on the
25 committee.

26 SECTION 2. (a) The terms of the current members of the
27 aerospace and aviation advisory committee expire on the effective

1 date of this Act. On that date or as soon as possible after that
2 date, the governor shall appoint new members to the aerospace and
3 aviation advisory committee in accordance with the requirements of
4 Section 481.0066(e), Government Code, as amended by this Act. The
5 governor shall designate four members of the committee whose terms
6 expire on February 1, 2017, and three members of the committee whose
7 terms expire on February 1, 2019.

8 (b) A member of the aerospace and aviation advisory
9 committee serving immediately before the effective date of this Act
10 is eligible for reappointment to the committee if the person has the
11 qualifications for a member under Section 481.0066(e), Government
12 Code, as amended by this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.