

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 2078

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation and duties of the Global Climate Change
3 Commission.

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

5 SECTION 1. STATEMENT OF POLICY. (a) There is broad
6 agreement between nations, across states, and among scientists that
7 increasing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other
8 greenhouse gases released into the earth's atmosphere are affecting
9 the earth's climate.

10 (b) There is further consensus that global climate change,
11 national security, and energy dependence are a related set of
12 global challenges.

13 (c) The potential adverse effects of global climate change
14 in the coming decades include extreme weather events, drought, a
15 decline in air quality, rising sea levels and global temperatures,
16 and exacerbation of challenges such as infectious disease and
17 terrorism.

18 (d) The state of the world's climate in the future largely
19 depends on how global leaders react to global climate change now.

20 (e) Many states and countries have reached across borders to
21 collaborate and develop policies to reduce greenhouse gas
22 emissions, spur private investment in clean energy, and enhance
23 energy security.

24 (f) By not taking aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gas

1 emissions, the state is missing out on an opportunity to become a
2 global leader in protecting against global climate change and risks
3 exposing the state's economy and its citizens to unmitigated
4 consequences.

5 (g) Global warming will have deleterious effects on the
6 state's labor productivity, infrastructure, and industries,
7 including agriculture, water, energy, forestry, and tourism.

8 (h) Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as
9 energy conservation and development of renewable energy sources,
10 may have multiple benefits, including economic development, job
11 creation, cost savings, and improved air quality in and beyond the
12 boundaries of this state.

13 (i) Recognizing the potential threat to the environment,
14 economy, and national security, it is the intent of the Texas
15 Legislature to create a global climate change commission committed
16 to working toward mitigating the impacts of global climate change
17 nationally and internationally.

18 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

19 (1) "Commission" means the Global Climate Change
20 Commission.

21 (2) "Greenhouse gas" has the meaning assigned by
22 Section 403.028, Government Code.

23 (3) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
24 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

25 SECTION 3. COMMISSION CREATED; COMPOSITION. (a) The Global
26 Climate Change Commission is created.

27 (b) The commission is composed of:

- 1 (1) one member appointed by the governor;
- 2 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- 3 (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
4 representatives;
- 5 (4) one member appointed by the most senior member of
6 the minority party of the house of representatives;
- 7 (5) one member appointed by the most senior member of
8 the minority party of the senate; and
- 9 (6) the following members appointed evenly between the
10 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
11 representatives:
 - 12 (A) a representative of the public energy sector;
 - 13 (B) a representative of rural electric
14 cooperatives;
 - 15 (C) a representative of the municipal
16 electricity sector;
 - 17 (D) two representatives of separate nonprofit
18 environmental organizations;
 - 19 (E) three scientists at separate institutions of
20 higher education, including one climatologist;
 - 21 (F) an economist from an institution of higher
22 education;
 - 23 (G) a representative of business and industry;
 - 24 (H) a representative of the manufacturing or
25 mining industry;
 - 26 (I) a representative of the agriculture or
27 forestry industry;

1 (J) a representative of the fossil fuel industry;

2 (K) a representative from the Health and Human
3 Services Commission; and

4 (L) four representatives of the public.

5 SECTION 4. PRESIDING OFFICER; MEETINGS; COMPENSATION. (a)
6 The commission shall elect one of its members to serve as presiding
7 officer.

8 (b) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and at the
9 call of the presiding officer.

10 (c) A commission member is not entitled to receive
11 compensation for service on the commission but is entitled to
12 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by the member while
13 conducting the business of the commission, as provided by the
14 General Appropriations Act.

15 SECTION 5. DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a) Not later than
16 September 1, 2016, the commission shall prepare and deliver a
17 comprehensive inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions in
18 this state from 2000 to 2030 to the governor, lieutenant governor,
19 speaker of the house of representatives, state energy conservation
20 office, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

21 (b) The commission shall:

22 (1) design a multiregional, multistate, and
23 multilateral approach to:

24 (A) reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

25 (B) reduce energy demands;

26 (C) protect public health; and

27 (D) increase public and private investment in

1 clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure;

2 (2) assess the impact of global climate change on
3 important matters of national security; and

4 (3) develop and recommend a portfolio of feasible and
5 affordable policy options to reduce this state's vulnerability to
6 the predictable effects of global climate change.

7 (c) The commission shall submit a preliminary written
8 report of its activities and progress under Subsection (b) of this
9 section to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house
10 of representatives, state energy conservation office, and Texas
11 Commission on Environmental Quality not later than September 1,
12 2016. The report must include a comprehensive and coordinated plan
13 for adapting the state's economy, infrastructure, security
14 policies, and public health policies to:

15 (1) address the consequences of global climate change;
16 and

17 (2) ensure continued economic global competitiveness.

18 (d) The commission shall submit a final written report of
19 its activities and recommendations under Subsection (b) of this
20 section on or before January 1, 2017, to the legislature, including
21 the state affairs committee of each house of the legislature.

22 SECTION 6. APPOINTMENTS. As soon as possible after this Act
23 takes effect:

24 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the
25 house of representatives, and members of the legislature described
26 by Section 3 of this Act shall make the appointments required by
27 that section; and

1 (2) the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of
2 the house of representatives or their designees shall meet to
3 apportion the appointments under Section 3(b)(6) of this Act.

4 SECTION 7. EXPIRATION. This Act expires and the commission
5 is abolished effective March 1, 2017.

6 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
7 1, 2015.