

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 3378

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the border commerce coordinator.

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

SECTION 1. Section 772.010, Government Code, as added by Chapter 1339 (H.B. 564), Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 772.010. BORDER COMMERCE COORDINATOR. (a) The governor shall designate a border commerce coordinator in the governor's office or the office of the secretary of state as determined by the governor. The coordinator shall:

(1) examine trade issues between the United States, Mexico, and Canada;

(2) act as an ombudsman for government agencies within the Texas and Mexico border region to help reduce regulations by improving communication and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments;

(3) work with federal officials to resolve transportation issues involving infrastructure, including roads and bridges, to allow for the efficient movement of goods and people across the border between Texas and Mexico;

(4) work with federal officials to create a unified federal agency process to streamline border crossing needs;

(5) work to increase funding for the North American Development Bank to assist in the financing of water and wastewater

1 facilities; ~~and~~

2 (6) explore the sale of excess electric power from
3 Texas to Mexico;

4 (7) study the flow of commerce at ports of entry
5 between this state and Mexico, including the movement of commercial
6 vehicles across the border, and establish a plan to aid that
7 commerce and improve the movement of those vehicles;

8 (8) work to identify problems associated with border
9 truck inspections and related trade and transportation
10 infrastructure and develop recommendations for addressing those
11 problems;

12 (9) work with the appropriate state and federal
13 agencies to develop initiatives to mitigate congestion at ports of
14 entry; and

15 (10) develop recommendations designed to:

16 (A) increase trade by attracting new business
17 ventures;

18 (B) support expansion of existing and new
19 industries; and

20 (C) address workforce training needs.

21 (b) The governor shall appoint a border commerce
22 coordinator to serve at the will of the governor in the governor's
23 office or in the office of the secretary of state and may select the
24 secretary of state as the coordinator.

25 (c) The coordinator shall work with the interagency work
26 group established under Section 772.011, with local governments,
27 metropolitan planning organizations, and other appropriate

1 community organizations adjacent to the border of this state with
2 the United Mexican States, and with comparable entities in Mexican
3 states adjacent to that border to address the unique planning and
4 capacity needs of those areas. The coordinator shall assist those
5 governments, organizations, and entities to identify and develop
6 initiatives to address those needs. Before January 1 of each year,
7 the coordinator shall submit to the presiding officer of each house
8 of the legislature a report of the coordinator's activities under
9 this subsection during the preceding year.

10 (d) The coordinator shall:

11 (1) work with private industry and appropriate
12 entities of Texas and the United States to require that low-sulfur
13 fuel be sold along highways in Texas carrying increased traffic
14 related to activities under the North American Free Trade
15 Agreement; and

16 (2) work with representatives of the government of the
17 United Mexican States and the governments of Mexican states
18 bordering Texas to increase the use of low-sulfur fuel.

19 (e) The coordinator shall appoint a border mayor task force,
20 to be named the Texas Good Neighbor Committee, consisting of the
21 mayors from every municipality located in this state along the
22 border between Texas and the United Mexican States. The task force
23 shall:

24 (1) advise the coordinator on key trade, security, and
25 transportation-related issues important to the municipalities
26 appointed to the task force;

27 (2) hold quarterly meetings with mayors from Mexico

1 to:

2 (A) increase:

3 (i) cooperation;

4 (ii) communication; and

5 (iii) the flow of information;

6 (B) identify problems; and

7 (C) recommend solutions;

8 (3) seek assistance and input from private sector
9 stakeholders involved in commerce to identify issues to address;
10 and

11 (4) provide recommendations to assist the coordinator
12 in carrying out the coordinator's statutory duties.

13 SECTION 2. (a) Section 772.010, Government Code, as added
14 by Chapter 429 (S.B. 1136), Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular
15 Session, 1999, is repealed.

16 (b) Section 3(a), Chapter 1215 (H.B. 925), Acts of the 79th
17 Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, which reenacted and amended
18 Section 772.010, Government Code, as added by Chapters 429 (S.B.
19 1136) and 1339 (H.B. 564), Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular
20 Session, 1999, is repealed.

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