

AN ACT

relating to the aerospace and aviation office of the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office and to the aerospace and aviation advisory committee.

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

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

(d) The aerospace and aviation office shall:

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

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

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

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

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

1 reforms the state may undertake or implement to:

2 (A) increase investment in aerospace and
3 aviation activities;

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

6 (C) identify and encourage educational,
7 economic, and defense-related opportunities for aerospace and
8 aviation activities;

9 (D) determine the appropriate level of funding
10 for the spaceport trust fund created under Section 481.0069 and
11 support ongoing projects that have been assisted by the fund,
12 including recommending to the legislature an appropriate funding
13 level for the fund;

14 (E) partner with the Texas Higher Education
15 Coordinating Board to foster technological advancement and
16 economic development for spaceport activities by strengthening
17 higher education programs and supporting aerospace activities; and

18 (F) partner with the Texas Workforce Commission
19 to support initiatives that address the high technology skills and
20 staff resources needed to better promote the state's efforts in
21 becoming the leading space exploration state in the nation;

22 (6) act as a liaison with other state and federal
23 entities with related economic, educational, and defense
24 responsibilities to support the marketing of the state's aerospace
25 and aviation capabilities;

26 (7) [~~6~~] provide technical support and expertise to
27 the state and to local spaceport authorities regarding aerospace

1 and aviation business matters; and

2 (8) [~~(7)~~] be responsible for the promotion and
3 development of spaceports in this state.

4 (d-1) The aerospace and aviation office shall make specific
5 short-term and long-term statutory, administrative, and
6 budget-related recommendations to the legislature and the governor
7 regarding the policy initiatives and reforms described by
8 Subsection (d)(5) that may be implemented by the state. The
9 short-term recommendations must include a plan for state action for
10 implementation beginning not later than September 1, 2017. The
11 initiatives and reforms in the short-term plan must be fully
12 implemented by September 1, 2020. The long-term recommendations
13 must include a plan for state action for implementation beginning
14 not later than September 1, 2020. The initiatives and reforms in
15 the long-term plan must be fully implemented by September 1, 2025.
16 The aerospace and aviation office shall submit these
17 recommendations to the legislature and governor with the biennial
18 report required by Subsection (d-2) not later than December 1,
19 2016. This subsection expires September 1, 2017.

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

1 (1) the status of all projects and activities;

2 (2) the funding of expenditures;

3 (3) a summary of work performed as part of the
4 aerospace and aviation office's partnership with the Texas Higher
5 Education Coordinating Board, including a summary prepared by the
6 board of the research conducted by public senior colleges or
7 universities, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code;

8 (4) a summary of work performed as part of the
9 aerospace and aviation office's partnership with the Texas
10 Workforce Commission; and

11 (5) an explanation of the ways in which the aerospace
12 and aviation office has promoted the state's economic development
13 goals through increased space exploration activities.

14 (e) The governor shall appoint an aerospace and aviation
15 advisory committee consisting of:

16 (1) seven qualified members to assist in the state's
17 economic development efforts to recruit and retain aerospace and
18 aviation jobs and investment; and

19 (2) one member for each active spaceport development
20 corporation in the state who represents the interests of each
21 respective spaceport development corporation.

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

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

25 (2) assist the office and the aerospace and aviation
26 office in meeting the state's economic development efforts to
27 recruit and retain aerospace and aviation jobs and investment;

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

4 (4) advise the office, the aerospace and aviation
5 office, and the governor on recruitment, retention, and expansion
6 of aerospace and aviation industry activities; and

7 (5) collect and disseminate information on federal,
8 state, local, and private community economic development programs
9 that assist or provide loans, grants, or other funding to aerospace
10 and aviation industry activities.

11 (e-2) Members of the aerospace and aviation advisory
12 committee:

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

14 (2) may not receive compensation for serving on the
15 committee.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The terms of the current members of the
17 aerospace and aviation advisory committee expire on the effective
18 date of this Act. On that date or as soon as possible after that
19 date, the governor shall appoint new members to the aerospace and
20 aviation advisory committee in accordance with the requirements of
21 Section 481.0066(e), Government Code, as amended by this Act.

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 458 passed the Senate on April 16, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 458 passed the House on May 8, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 10, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor