

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 838

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the functions of the Office of Immigration and Refugee
3 Affairs and the Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and
4 Refugees.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 752.001, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 752.001. OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS.
9 The Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs is ~~created~~ within
10 the Health and Human Services Commission ~~[Texas Department of Human~~
11 ~~Services]~~. The office shall work in conjunction with the office of
12 the secretary of state.

13 SECTION 2. Section 752.003, Government Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 Sec. 752.003. REFUGEE COORDINATOR. (a) The secretary of
16 state serves as the refugee coordinator for the office unless the
17 governor appoints a person under Subsection (b).

18 (b) The governor may ~~shall~~ appoint a person other than the
19 secretary of state as refugee coordinator for the office to serve at
20 the pleasure of the governor.

21 (c) The refugee coordinator shall serve as chief
22 administrative officer of the office and shall ensure coordination
23 of public and private resources in refugee resettlement.

24 SECTION 3. Section 752.004, Government Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 752.004. APPLICATION FOR AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL
3 FUNDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS. (a) The office shall apply for the
4 maximum amount of federal funds available through the Immigration
5 Reform and Control Act of 1986 (Pub. L. No. 99-603), the
6 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.),
7 [~~and~~] the Refugee Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. Section 1521 et seq.), and
8 other federal programs, as appropriate, for use in assisting state
9 agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and
10 faith-based organizations in addressing matters related to
11 immigrants and refugees. The office shall apply for those funds and
12 shall distribute the funds to agencies and other entities
13 responsible for providing services to immigrants, including newly
14 legalized aliens, and refugees in accordance with federal law. The
15 office may retain a portion of the federal funds to cover reasonable
16 costs incurred in securing and administering the funds. The office
17 may delegate to an appropriate state agency the administration of
18 funds under this section.

19 (b) The office shall seek reimbursement from the federal
20 government for any costs incurred by state agencies, local
21 governments, nonprofit organizations, and faith-based
22 organizations in addressing matters related to immigrants and
23 refugees.

24 SECTION 4. Section 752.007, Government Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 752.007. OTHER FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE. In addition to
27 other duties prescribed by this subchapter, the office shall:

1 (1) coordinate public and private programs for the
2 benefit of immigrants and refugees;

3 (2) receive and address inquiries relating to the
4 services available to immigrants or refugees at the local, state,
5 and federal levels; ~~and~~

6 (3) assist local communities with the development of
7 programs to address the needs of immigrants and refugees at the
8 local level; and

9 (4) arrange meetings with appropriate local, state,
10 and federal authorities and the appropriate corresponding
11 authorities in Mexico to develop increased communication,
12 cooperation, and coordination to establish initiatives and
13 government-supported efforts that limit the entrance of
14 undocumented immigrants into this state.

15 SECTION 5. Section 752.021, Government Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 752.021. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
18 AND REFUGEES. The Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and
19 Refugees is created within the office of the governor. The
20 committee shall advise and make recommendations to the Office of
21 Immigration and Refugee Affairs on immigration and refugee issues,
22 including ~~[the SLIAC program authorized by the Immigration Reform~~
23 ~~and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.) and the]~~
24 refugee assistance programs ~~[authorized by the Refugee Act of 1980~~
25 ~~(8 U.S.C. Section 1521 et seq.)]~~.

26 SECTION 6. Sections 752.022(a) and (c), Government Code,
27 are amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The committee is composed of 12 members appointed by the
2 governor with the advice and consent of the senate as follows:

3 (1) two representatives of the refugee population;

4 (2) two representatives of the immigrant population;

5 (3) three representatives of local provider programs
6 that serve immigrants or refugees and that receive federal funds,
7 with one each from a public health program, a public assistance
8 program, and an education program;

9 (4) three representatives from faith-based
10 organizations that assist local governments with matters related to
11 immigrants and refugees [~~voluntary resettlement agencies that~~
12 ~~receive state or federal funds~~];

13 (5) one representative from a legal organization that
14 is involved in issues relating to immigrants or refugees; and

15 (6) one representative from a service organization
16 that works with immigrants or refugees.

17 (c) The governor shall appoint a member of the committee to
18 serve as the chair of the committee [~~for a one-year term~~].

19 SECTION 7. Subchapter B, Chapter 752, Government Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 752.0231 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 752.0231. OTHER LAW. Section 2110.008 does not apply
22 to the committee.

23 SECTION 8. Section 752.024, Government Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 752.024. FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEE. The committee shall:

26 (1) advise and make recommendations to the Office of
27 Immigration and Refugee Affairs regarding policy, planning, and

1 priorities for matters related to immigrants and refugees [~~the~~
2 ~~SLIAC program and refugee assistance programs~~];

3 (2) advise and make recommendations to the Office of
4 Immigration and Refugee Affairs regarding coordination of the
5 efforts of all public agencies involved in health, human services,
6 and education matters that relate to federal immigration and
7 refugee laws and rules [~~or implementation of the SLIAC program or~~
8 ~~refugee assistance programs~~];

9 (3) encourage communication and cooperation among
10 local agencies and programs, state agencies, immigration-related
11 and refugee-related legal and service agencies, and the federal
12 government;

13 (4) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee
14 Affairs in applying for the maximum amount of federal funds
15 available for immigrant-related [~~SLIAC-related~~] programs and
16 activities and refugee-related programs and activities and in
17 identifying local programs and costs relating to immigration or
18 refugees for which the state or a political subdivision may receive
19 reimbursement;

20 (5) provide information to programs and activities
21 that serve and encourage legalization and education of residents of
22 this state;

23 (6) review issues related to immigrants and refugees
24 [~~federal issues regarding the SLIAC program and refugee assistance~~
25 ~~programs~~] and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and
26 Refugee Affairs to encourage the development of a state response to
27 those [~~federal~~] issues;

1 (7) ~~[review and make recommendations to the Office of~~
2 ~~Immigration and Refugee Affairs and state agencies to ensure that~~
3 ~~the system of fiscal and program operations for the SLIAC program~~
4 ~~and refugee assistance programs is consistent with existing state~~
5 ~~and federal requirements;~~

6 ~~(8)~~ assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee
7 Affairs in the development of an annual report on the status of
8 matters related to immigrants and refugees ~~[the SLIAC program and~~
9 ~~refugee assistance programs]~~ in the state;

10 (8) ~~(9)~~ advise and make recommendations to the
11 Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs on other related matters
12 as directed by the governor; and

13 (9) ~~(10)~~ assist the Office of Immigration and
14 Refugee Affairs to better address issues related to immigrants and
15 refugees confronting the state and local communities ~~[in the~~
16 ~~development of a spending plan for fiscal years 1993 and 1994~~
17 ~~proposing spending priorities for SLIAC funds for services to~~
18 ~~eligible legalized aliens and for other federal funds available to~~
19 ~~benefit immigrants or refugees in the state].~~

20 SECTION 9. (a) Not later than January 1, 2016, the governor
21 shall appoint the members of the Governor's Advisory Committee on
22 Immigration and Refugees as provided by Section 752.022(a),
23 Government Code, as amended by this Act. The committee is
24 re-created on the date the governor makes the appointments as
25 provided by this subsection.

26 (b) Notwithstanding Section 752.022(b), Government Code,
27 the terms of the members of the advisory committee appointed as

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1 provided by Subsection (a) of this section expire February 1, 2017.

2 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.