

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas First Center to study and provide advice to the legislature on the effective use of state resources.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 10, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2061 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2061. TEXAS FIRST CENTER

Sec. 2061.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Texas First Center Board.

(2) "Center" means the Texas First Center.

(3) "State agency" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency in the executive or judicial branch of state government that is created under the constitution or a statute of this state. The term includes an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

Sec. 2061.0002. TEXAS FIRST CENTER. (a) The Texas First Center is created as an independent policy center for the primary purpose of advising this state's legislature.

(b) The center shall represent the interests of the residents of this state by studying the effect of resource allocation on the performance of state agencies and other public institutions using applicable state and national data.

(c) In performing the duties assigned by this chapter, the

1 center shall work directly with:

2 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the
3 house of representatives, and members of the legislature; and

4 (2) state agencies and other public institutions.

5 Sec. 2061.0003. CENTER DUTIES. (a) The center shall use
6 analytics standards used by business, finance, public policy, and
7 other interests considered appropriate by the center to determine
8 the relationship between resource allocation and performance
9 outcomes of state agencies and other public institutions.

10 (b) The center shall develop a schedule so that each year
11 the center evaluates the performance of selected state agencies and
12 other public institutions and provides a progress report on those
13 agencies and institutions to:

14 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of
15 the house of representatives; and

16 (2) responsible parties at each agency or institution
17 being evaluated.

18 (c) The center may assist the legislature with policy
19 studies related to the center's duties. The center may participate
20 in collaborative studies with a foundation or organization inside
21 or outside this state related to the center's duties.

22 (d) The center shall seek information, data, and best
23 practices from state, regional, and national sources to use in
24 performing the center's duties under this chapter.

25 (e) The center may contract with independent experts,
26 academic scholars, and other appropriate professionals in
27 performing the center's duties under this chapter.

1 Sec. 2061.0004. TEXAS FIRST CENTER BOARD. (a) The Texas
2 First Center Board is created as the primary policy-making body of
3 the center.

4 (b) The board is composed of three members appointed by the
5 governor.

6 (c) Board members must include individuals in the private
7 sector who have an interest in improving the performance of state
8 agencies and other public institutions and significant experience
9 in organizational management, finance, or business. A board member
10 may not have a financial relationship with a vendor who provides
11 goods or services to an agency or institution of this state.

12 (d) Board members serve four-year terms.

13 (e) Board members shall annually elect one member as the
14 presiding officer.

15 (f) A board member may not receive a salary for services as a
16 board member but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in
17 attending board meetings.

18 Sec. 2061.0005. BOARD DUTIES. (a) In addition to the
19 evaluation and report required under Section 2061.0003(b), the
20 board shall study effective and efficient systems for the operation
21 of state agencies and other public institutions and make
22 recommendations to:

23 (1) improve the performance of agencies and
24 institutions to meet the demands of the current century;

25 (2) improve this state's ability to compete with other
26 states and countries; and

27 (3) provide the legislature and the public with

1 information on the performance of agencies and institutions.

2 (b) The board shall provide a report of the board's study
3 and recommendations under Subsection (a) to:

4 (1) the Legislative Budget Board at least once each
5 year; and

6 (2) the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of
7 the house of representatives not later than December 1 of each
8 even-numbered year.

9 Sec. 2061.0006. SUPPORT FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES. (a)
10 State agencies and other public institutions shall fully cooperate
11 with and assist the center at the board's request.

12 (b) Data and information necessary to perform the center's
13 duties under this chapter shall be provided at the board's request
14 in a timely manner. The board and center shall maintain
15 confidentiality and other security measures for any requested data
16 and information.

17 Sec. 2061.0007. FUNDING. The center may be funded by
18 donations, grants, and legislative appropriations.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the governor shall appoint the initial members of the
21 Texas First Center Board under Section 2061.0004, Government Code,
22 as added by this Act, to serve terms beginning January 1, 2018.

23 SECTION 3. The first reports required under Sections
24 2061.0003(b) and 2061.0005(b)(1), Government Code, as added by this
25 Act, are due not later than December 1, 2018.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.