

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 942

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, this 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  
26 Global 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;

4 (L) a representative from the Texas Military  
5 Preparedness Commission;

6 (M) a representative from the Texas Division of  
7 Emergency Management;

8 (N) a representative from the Texas Water  
9 Development Board; and

10 (O) three representatives of the public.

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

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

16 (c) A commission member is not entitled to receive  
17 compensation for service on the commission but is entitled to  
18 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by the member while  
19 conducting the business of the commission, as provided by the  
20 General Appropriations Act.

21 SECTION 5. DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a) Not later than  
22 September 1, 2020, the commission shall prepare and deliver a  
23 comprehensive inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions in  
24 this state from 2000 to 2030 to the governor, lieutenant governor,  
25 speaker of the house of representatives, state energy conservation  
26 office, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

27 (b) The commission shall:

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

3                   (A) reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

4                   (B) reduce energy demands;

5                   (C) protect public health; and

6                   (D) increase public and private investment in  
7 clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure;

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

10           (3) develop and recommend a portfolio of feasible and  
11 affordable policy options to reduce this state's vulnerability to  
12 the predictable effects of global climate change; and

13           (4) develop for inclusion in the state hazard  
14 mitigation plan submitted under Section 322, Robert T. Stafford  
15 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section  
16 5165), a strategy that considers the impact of climate change on  
17 risks from natural hazards.

18           (c) The commission shall submit a preliminary written  
19 report of its activities and progress under Subsection (b) of this  
20 section to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house  
21 of representatives, state energy conservation office, and Texas  
22 Commission on Environmental Quality not later than September 1,  
23 2020.

24           (d) The commission shall submit a final written report of  
25 its activities and recommendations under Subsection (b) of this  
26 section on or before January 1, 2021, to the governor, lieutenant  
27 governor, state energy conservation office, Texas Commission on

1 Environmental Quality, and legislature, including the state  
2 affairs committee of each house of the legislature. The report must  
3 include a comprehensive and coordinated plan for adapting this  
4 state's economy, infrastructure, security policies, and public  
5 health policies to:

6 (1) address the consequences of global climate change;  
7 and

8 (2) ensure continued economic global competitiveness.

9 SECTION 6. APPOINTMENTS. As soon as possible after the  
10 effective date of this Act:

11 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
12 house of representatives, and members of the legislature described  
13 by Section 3 of this Act shall make the appointments required by  
14 that section; and

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

18 SECTION 7. EXPIRATION. This Act expires and the commission  
19 is abolished March 1, 2021.

20 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
21 1, 2019.