

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 1980

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of the Climate Change Impact Assessment
3 Council.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "council" means the Climate
6 Change Impact Assessment Council.

7 (b) The council is established to study the impact of
8 climate change on the health, safety, and welfare of the residents
9 of this state.

10 (c) The council is composed of the following members:

11 (1) two members of the senate appointed by the
12 lieutenant governor;

13 (2) two members of the house of representatives
14 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

15 (3) seven members of the public appointed jointly by
16 the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
17 representatives, including:

18 (A) one member with expertise in climatology;

19 (B) one member with expertise in this state's
20 economy;

21 (C) one member with expertise in land management
22 and natural resource maintenance; and

23 (D) one representative of the tourism industry.

24 (d) A public member of the council is entitled to

1 reimbursement of the travel expenses incurred by the member while
2 conducting the business of the council, as provided by the General
3 Appropriations Act.

4 (e) The House Committee on Environmental Regulation and the
5 Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development
6 shall provide personnel and administrative support to the council
7 as needed.

8 (f) The council shall conduct a study to:

9 (1) assess the current and potential effects of
10 climate change trends on the residents, natural resources, public
11 health, and economy of this state;

12 (2) estimate the costs to this state of adverse
13 effects associated with climate change;

14 (3) research measures for preventing or mitigating the
15 effects of flooding, erosion, drought, and wildfires that may be
16 caused or worsened by climate change; and

17 (4) recommend legislation or other regulations to
18 minimize the adverse impact of climate change on this state.

19 (g) The council shall hold public hearings in various parts
20 of the state to gather information related to the council's study.

21 (h) Not later than January 1, 2021, the council shall
22 prepare and submit a report to the legislature containing the
23 findings of the study described in Subsection (f).

24 (i) The council is abolished and this Act expires September
25 1, 2021.

26 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2019, the lieutenant
27 governor and speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint

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1 members to the Climate Change Impact Assessment Council as required
2 by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.