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By:  Meza, Howard, Gervin-Hawkins, et al. H.B. No. 4056

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a committee to study the formation of a Texas Bicentennial Commission.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITION. In this Act, "committee" means the committee established under Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 2.  COMMITTEE. (a) The committee is composed of 77 members as follows:

(1)  one member appointed by the governor who serves as presiding officer of the committee;

(2)  one member appointed jointly by the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives who serves as vice presiding officer;

(3)  two members appointed by each senator:

(A)  both of whom must be residents of the senator's district;

(B)  one of whom must be male and the other female;

(C)  one of whom must be:

(i)  a member of a county historical commission or local historical society in the senator's district and recommended by the commission or society, if there is at least one county historical commission or local historical society in the district; or

(ii)  otherwise recommended by a county commissioners court in the senator's district as knowledgeable on local history; and

(D)  one of whom must be selected after soliciting input from each county judge in the senator's district on the proposed member;

(4)  four members appointed by the chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus in consultation with the members of the caucus;

(5)  four members appointed by the chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus in consultation with the members of the caucus;

(6)  one member appointed by the commissioner of the General Land Office to represent that office;

(7)  one member appointed by the comptroller to represent the comptroller's office;

(8)  one member appointed by the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission to represent that commission;

(9)  one member appointed by the director and librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; and

(10)  one member appointed by the executive director of the Texas Commission on the Arts to represent that commission.

(b)  The committee must reflect the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of this state.

(c)  The committee shall meet at the call of the presiding officer. Committee meetings may be held in person, by telephone, or by other means of communication.

(d)  The committee may establish subcommittees to assist the committee in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(e)  A member of the committee may not receive compensation for service on the committee.

(f)  The General Land Office and the Texas Historical Commission shall provide administrative support services at the request of the committee, including assisting in drafting and compiling the report required by this Act.

(g)  Committee meetings must be open to the public.

SECTION 3.  STUDY; REPORT. (a) The committee shall study the formation of a Texas Bicentennial Commission to plan this state's celebration of the 2036 bicentennial, including:

(1)  the composition of the commission, the manner of appointing its members, and the total number of members; and

(2)  the scope and duties of the commission.

(b)  Not later than December 30, 2022, the committee shall submit a written report to each member of the legislature with recommendations on the areas of study described by Subsection (a) of this section and any other recommendations the committee considers appropriate.

SECTION 4.  EXPIRATION. The committee is abolished and this Act expires January 1, 2023.

SECTION 5.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.