

By: Lopez

H.B. No. 2888

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the economic inclusion and diversification task force.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Economic development incentive" means a monetary incentive or tax incentive, as those terms are defined by Section 490G.001, Government Code.

(2) "Task force" means the economic inclusion and diversification task force established under this Act.

SECTION 2. TASK FORCE. (a) The economic inclusion and diversification task force is established to study the use and effectiveness of economic development incentives awarded to businesses by this state and to offer recommendations on how this state can award economic development incentives in a more effective manner to ensure economic diversification, inclusive development, and investment in the residents and communities of this state.

(b) The task force is composed of nine members as follows:

(1) the chair of the senate natural resources and economic development committee;

(2) the chair of the house international relations and economic development committee; and

(3) the following members appointed by the governor:

(A) four representatives of business and

1 industry, including one member who is a representative of small  
2 businesses;

3 (B) two members who are economic development  
4 practitioners; and

5 (C) an economist from an institution of higher  
6 education.

7 (c) In making appointments to the task force, the governor  
8 shall attempt to appoint persons who represent the gender  
9 composition, minority populations, and geographic regions of this  
10 state.

11 (d) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for  
12 service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for  
13 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force  
14 duties.

15 (e) The members of the task force shall elect a presiding  
16 officer from among the membership.

17 (f) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call  
18 of the presiding officer.

19 (g) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any  
20 other law, the task force may meet by telephone conference call,  
21 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method. A  
22 meeting held by telephone conference call, videoconference, or  
23 other similar telecommunication method is subject to the  
24 requirements of Sections 551.125(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government  
25 Code.

26 SECTION 3. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

27 (1) study and make recommendations on whether in the

1 next two fiscal bienniums, this state should prioritize the  
2 awarding of economic development incentives to:

3 (A) Texas-based businesses seeking to expand  
4 their operations within the state;

5 (B) out-of-state businesses that bring value to  
6 statewide industry supply chains and want to relocate to this  
7 state;

8 (C) businesses making investments in upskilling  
9 their workforce;

10 (D) businesses in new industries; or

11 (E) businesses making investments in new  
12 technologies;

13 (2) evaluate statewide industry supply chains for  
14 potential areas of investment;

15 (3) develop a plan to support business enterprises  
16 located in this state by awarding incentives for investing in the  
17 technical support and workforce training needed to scale their  
18 enterprises and potentially reach global markets; and

19 (4) reach out to universities and junior colleges,  
20 including junior colleges in rural areas of this state, to  
21 encourage their collaboration with businesses in their community  
22 for economic development and diversification purposes.

23 SECTION 4. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2022, the  
24 task force shall prepare and submit a written report on the results  
25 of the study and recommendations of the task force to the governor,  
26 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and  
27 presiding officer of each standing committee of the senate and the

1 house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over state  
2 finance matters.

3 SECTION 5. ABOLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE; EXPIRATION OF ACT.

4 The task force is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2023.

5 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
6 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
7 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
8 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
9 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.