

By: Price

H.B. No. 3675

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the I-27 Advisory Committee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.623 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.623. I-27 ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Advisory committee" means the I-27 Advisory Committee established under this section.

(2) "Feasibility study" means the study on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor conducted by the department as required by Chapter 756 (H.B. 1079), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019.

(3) "Ports-to-Plains Corridor" means the highways designated as the Ports-to-Plains Corridor under Section 225.069.

(b) The I-27 Advisory Committee is established to:

(1) provide the department with an enhanced understanding of public, business, and private concerns relating to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor;

(2) facilitate the department's communications and project development objectives relating to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor; and

(3) encourage greater cooperation between the department and affected parties during the planning and development

1 of projects relating to the Ports-to-Plains Corridor.

2 (c) The advisory committee shall regularly provide advice
3 and recommendations to the department on transportation
4 improvements to be made in the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, including
5 on:

6 (1) facilities to be included in a development plan
7 for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor;

8 (2) upgrades and other improvements to be made to
9 existing facilities located in the Ports-to-Plains Corridor; and

10 (3) other corridor-level planning and development
11 matters as requested by the department.

12 (d) In developing advice and recommendations, the advisory
13 committee shall:

14 (1) evaluate economic, political, societal, and
15 demographic population trends affecting transportation; and

16 (2) consider existing facilities, upgrades to
17 existing facilities, new and planned facilities, multimodal
18 solutions, and available financing options.

19 (e) The advisory committee is composed of:

20 (1) three county judges representing counties along
21 the Ports-to-Plains Corridor to be selected based on geographic
22 segments that were established for the feasibility study;

23 (2) the mayors of Amarillo, Midland, Lubbock, San
24 Angelo, Del Rio, and Laredo;

25 (3) three economic development professionals to be
26 selected based on geographic segments that were established for the
27 feasibility study;

1 (4) one business representative from the agriculture
2 industry;

3 (5) one business representative from the
4 international trade industry;

5 (6) one business representative from the energy
6 industry;

7 (7) one member from a metropolitan planning
8 organization representing a region along the Ports-to-Plains
9 Corridor; and

10 (8) one member of the state legislature.

11 (f) The members of the advisory committee described by
12 Subsection (e)(2) shall appoint the remaining members of the
13 advisory committee by majority vote.

14 (g) An advisory committee member serves until the member:

15 (1) ceases to hold the underlying position that
16 qualifies the member for service on the committee; or

17 (2) resigns.

18 (h) A vacancy on the advisory committee is filled:

19 (1) for a vacancy for a position qualified under
20 Subsection (e)(2), by the person holding the elected position
21 vacated by the former member; and

22 (2) for any other position, by majority vote of the
23 advisory committee members described by Subsection (e)(2).

24 (i) The advisory committee shall elect by majority vote of
25 the committee:

26 (1) a chair to serve as the committee's presiding
27 officer; and

1 (2) a vice-chair to serve as the committee's presiding
2 officer in the absence of the chair.

3 (j) The advisory committee shall meet at least once each
4 calendar year and at such other times as requested by the department
5 or the chair. The advisory committee may meet remotely or by
6 teleconference as determined by the chair or the department.

7 (k) An advisory committee member is not entitled to receive
8 compensation for service on the committee or reimbursement for
9 expenses incurred in the performance of official duties as a member
10 of the committee.

11 (l) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
12 advisory committee.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The members of the I-27 Advisory Committee
14 established under Section 201.623, Transportation Code, as added by
15 this Act, described by Section 201.623(e)(2), Transportation Code,
16 as added by this Act, shall make the appointments required by that
17 section not later than October 1, 2021.

18 (b) The I-27 Advisory Committee established under Section
19 201.623, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, shall meet on or
20 before the 30th day after the completion of appointments under
21 Subsection (a) of this section.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.