

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 4551

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a commission to study land titles.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "land title" means the initial conveyance of real property in this state, as evidenced by a certificate, title, or patent.

SECTION 2. LAND TITLE REVIEW COMMISSION. (a) The Land Title Review Commission is created to study and provide recommendations on providing alternative remedies to disputed land title claims before litigation is pursued.

(b) The commission shall determine:

(1) the feasibility in creating a review board that is tasked with establishing title in the name of the appropriate owner of real property if title is not contested by another person; and

(2) the legal impacts of a possible review board that establishes title in the name of the appropriate owner of real property if title is not contested by another person

(c) The commission consists of the following members:

(1) three members who have expertise in land title claims, appointed by the governor;

(2) three members who have expertise in property law, appointed by the governor;

(3) a designee of the lieutenant governor;

(4) a designee of the speaker;

1 (5) a designee of the commissioner of the General Land
2 Office;

3 (6) a designee of the comptroller;

4 (7) a designee of the attorney general;

5 (d) When making initial appointments under Subsection (c),
6 the governor shall designate one of the governor's appointees as
7 presiding officer of the commission.

8 (e) Members of the commission shall be appointed or
9 designated, as appropriate, not later than December 31, 2021.

10 (f) The commission shall meet not later than the 30th day
11 after the date initial appointments or designations are made under
12 Subsection (c) and shall meet regularly as necessary at the call of
13 the presiding officer.

14 (g) A commission member is not entitled to reimbursement of
15 expenses or to compensation.

16 (h) On the commission's request, the comptroller or any
17 other state agency, department, or office shall provide any
18 assistance the commission needs to perform the commission's duties.

19 SECTION 3. REPORT ON LAND TITLE REVIEW. Not later than
20 January 1, 2023, the commission shall provide to the governor,
21 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a
22 final report on the feasibility of an alternative land title
23 review. The final report must include:

24 (1) recommendation for how a land title review board
25 would operate and review land title disputes;

26 (2) pertinent case law that would be impacted by a land
27 title review process;

1 (3) proposed legislation necessary to implement the
2 recommendations made in the final report;

3 (4) any administrative recommendations proposed by
4 the commission; and

5 (5) a complete explanation of each of the commission's
6 recommendations.

7 SECTION 4. OTHER LAW. The commission is not subject to
8 Chapter [2110](#), Government Code.

9 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires and the Land
10 Title Review Commission is abolished on June 1, 2023.

11 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
12 1, 2021.