

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provisions required in an interstate compact on border security.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 794, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 794.0001 to read as follows:

Sec. 794.0001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "illegal alien" means a person who:

(1) is not a citizen or national of the United States;

and

(2) is unlawfully present in the United States

according to the terms of 8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.

SECTION 2. Section 794.003, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 794.003. INTERSTATE COMPACT PROVISIONS. The compact authorized by this chapter must provide for joint action among compacting states on matters that include:

(1) sharing law enforcement intelligence on illegal activity occurring at the border with Mexico;

(2) sharing state resources in order to build a physical barrier, a comprehensive technological surveillance system, or both, on state land to deter or detect illegal activity occurring at the border with Mexico; ~~and~~

(3) sharing other law enforcement resources to ensure

1 the protection of personnel and property;

2 (4) to the greatest extent possible given the
3 resources available, ensuring the operational control of the
4 Texas-Mexico border through the detection and apprehension or
5 deflection of illegal aliens attempting to cross that border into
6 this state;

7 (5) enforcing federal immigration laws, including the
8 laws governing detecting, apprehending, detaining, prosecuting,
9 releasing, and monitoring illegal aliens; and

10 (6) providing mutual support for the resources,
11 including infrastructure, equipment, software, and personnel, that
12 are necessary or convenient to ensure that the purposes described
13 by this section are adequately supported and achieved.

14 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Chapter
15 794, Government Code, apply only to an interstate compact entered
16 into under that chapter on or after the effective date of this Act.
17 An interstate compact entered into under that chapter before the
18 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
19 date the interstate compact was entered into, and the former law is
20 continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.