

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 610

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Legislative Committee on Aging.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 161, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING

Sec. 161.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Committee" means the Legislative Committee on Aging.

(2) "Health and human services agency" has the meaning assigned by Section 531.001, Government Code.

Sec. 161.252. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING ESTABLISHED.

The Legislative Committee on Aging is established to:

(1) study issues relating to the aging population of Texas, including issues related to the health care, transportation, housing, education, and employment needs of that population; and

(2) make recommendations to address those issues and coordinate available services.

Sec. 161.253. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE; PRESIDING OFFICER.

(a) The committee is composed of:

(1) two members of the senate and one public member appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

(2) two members of the house of representatives and

1 one public member appointed by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives.

3 (b) A member of the committee serves at the pleasure of the
4 appointing official.

5 (c) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
6 representatives shall appoint the presiding officer of the
7 committee on an alternating basis. The presiding officer shall
8 serve a two-year term expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered
9 year.

10 Sec. 161.254. COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The
11 committee shall:

12 (1) meet at the call of the presiding officer;

13 (2) receive information about rules proposed or
14 adopted by the executive commissioner relating to the aging
15 population;

16 (3) review specific recommendations for legislation
17 proposed by the executive commissioner, the department, another
18 health and human services agency, or the attorney general relating
19 to the aging population;

20 (4) review the effectiveness of the regulatory systems
21 of this state relating to the aging population;

22 (5) analyze the availability of, and unmet needs for,
23 state and local services for the aging population; and

24 (6) request reports and other information as necessary
25 from the executive commissioner, the department, another health and
26 human services agency, and the attorney general relating to the
27 aging population.

1 (b) The committee may issue process, in accordance with
2 Section 301.024, Government Code, to compel attendance of witnesses
3 and the production of books, records, documents, and instruments
4 required by the committee.

5 (c) The committee shall use the existing staff resources of
6 the senate and the house of representatives to assist the committee
7 in performing its duties under this section. The department, on
8 request, shall provide additional resources and assistance to the
9 committee.

10 Sec. 161.255. REPORT. (a) The committee shall report to
11 the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives
12 having jurisdiction of issues related to the needs of the aging
13 population not later than November 15 of each even-numbered year.

14 (b) The report must include:

15 (1) a summary of the effectiveness of the regulatory
16 systems of this state related to the aging population;

17 (2) an analysis of the types of state and local
18 services available to the aging population, including health care,
19 transportation, housing, and education services;

20 (3) an analysis of the unique needs of the aging
21 population participating or desiring to participate in the
22 workforce and necessary actions to meet those needs; and

23 (4) recommendations for legislation.

24 SECTION 2. The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the
25 house of representatives shall appoint members of the Legislative
26 Committee on Aging, as established by this Act, not later than the
27 30th day after the effective date of this Act.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.