

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Bureau for Economic Development of the Border Region.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490D to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490D. BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER REGION

Sec. 490D.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Border region" means the portion of this state located:

(A) not more than 100 kilometers from the state's international border; or

(B) in a county located on an international border.

(2) "Bureau" means the Bureau for Economic Development of the Border Region.

Sec. 490D.002. BUREAU; MEMBERS. (a) The Bureau for Economic Development of the Border Region is a collaboration of participating entities administered by an institution of higher education as provided by Subsection (b). The bureau shall work in collaboration with public and private entities solely in an advisory capacity on relevant research focused on the border region to effectively maximize the economic potential of the region.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (h), the

1 administration of the bureau shall alternate on September 1 of each
2 odd-numbered year among the following institutions of higher
3 education in the following order:

4 (1) a private university that is located in a
5 municipality that contains more than 75 percent of the population
6 of a county with a population of 1.5 million or more and that has an
7 economic development research institute dedicated to researching
8 regional economies, selected by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives;

10 (2) The University of Texas at Brownsville;

11 (3) The University of Texas--Pan American;

12 (4) The University of Texas at El Paso;

13 (5) The University of Texas at San Antonio; and

14 (6) Texas A&M International University.

15 (c) The bureau has a steering committee that consists of the
16 following members:

17 (1) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

18 (2) one member affiliated with a private university
19 described by Subsection (b)(1), appointed by the speaker of the
20 house of representatives;

21 (3) one member appointed by the administration of each
22 of the following institutions of higher education:

23 (A) The University of Texas at Brownsville;

24 (B) The University of Texas--Pan American;

25 (C) The University of Texas at El Paso;

26 (D) The University of Texas at San Antonio; and

27 (E) Texas A&M International University;

1 (4) the chair of the House Committee on Border and
2 Intergovernmental Affairs, designated by the speaker of the house
3 of representatives; and

4 (5) the chair of the Senate Committee on International
5 Relations and Trade, designated by the lieutenant governor.

6 (d) The members of the bureau's steering committee
7 appointed under Subsections (c)(2) and (3) must represent a center,
8 division, or institute for economic development, border studies,
9 enterprise development, workforce development, or similar matters
10 within the institution of higher education.

11 (e) The member of the bureau's steering committee appointed
12 under Subsection (c)(1) must be a resident of the border region.
13 The other appointed or designated members of the steering committee
14 may be residents of the border region.

15 (f) Members of the bureau's steering committee must be
16 selected to provide the bureau expertise in matters relating to
17 financial planning and development, construction, engineering,
18 economic development, employment, or trade.

19 (g) The institution of higher education that administers
20 the bureau shall provide educational expertise to the bureau.

21 (h) An institution of higher education may decline to
22 administer the bureau for a biennium if the institution notifies
23 each of the members of the bureau's steering committee not later
24 than the 30th day before the date the institution is scheduled to
25 begin administering the bureau. If an institution declines to
26 administer the bureau:

27 (1) the next institution of higher education scheduled

1 to administer the bureau shall administer the bureau during the
2 biennium;

3 (2) the member affiliated with the institution of
4 higher education that has declined to administer the bureau must
5 continue to participate in the steering committee but does not
6 serve as the presiding officer for the biennium; and

7 (3) the institutions of higher education listed in
8 Subsection (b) shall continue to alternate the administration of
9 the bureau in the order required by that subsection for subsequent
10 bienniums.

11 Sec. 490D.003. TERMS. (a) The members of the bureau's
12 steering committee appointed under Sections 490D.002(c)(1), (2),
13 and (3) serve staggered terms of two years, with four of the
14 members' terms expiring September 1 of each odd-numbered year.

15 (b) A member may serve more than one term.

16 Sec. 490D.004. MEETINGS; OFFICERS. (a) The bureau's
17 steering committee shall hold at least one regular meeting
18 annually.

19 (b) The member of the steering committee affiliated with the
20 institution of higher education that is administering the bureau as
21 provided by Section 490D.002(b) serves as the presiding officer.

22 (c) The steering committee shall meet subject to the call of
23 the presiding officer.

24 Sec. 490D.005. DUTIES. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), the
25 bureau shall:

26 (1) facilitate research in fields of study affecting
27 the economy in the border region;

1 (2) make recommendations to the legislature regarding
2 the provision of economic and financial education to persons living
3 in the border region;

4 (3) draft and submit reports to advise the legislature
5 about economic development opportunities in the border region;

6 (4) provide evaluation of specific proposals for use
7 of economic development funds in the border region, including tax
8 abatement agreements;

9 (5) consult with the Texas Economic Development and
10 Tourism Office within the office of the governor on issues related
11 to the border region;

12 (6) study and report on opportunities to improve trade
13 across the international border; and

14 (7) make recommendations to the legislature about the
15 establishment of infrastructure projects to assist multiple
16 counties in the border region.

17 (b) Before a recommendation or evaluation is made under
18 Subsection (a), two-thirds of the members of the steering committee
19 present at a meeting at which a quorum is present must approve the
20 recommendation or evaluation.

21 Sec. 490D.006. FUNDING. (a) The bureau or any member of
22 the bureau's steering committee may solicit and accept pledges,
23 gifts, and endowments from private sources on the bureau's behalf.
24 The bureau shall actively seek gifts from businesses and
25 organizations that represent businesses to support the bureau's
26 functions. A pledge, gift, or endowment solicited under this
27 section must be consistent with the purposes of the bureau.

1 (b) The legislature may not make an appropriation for the
2 duties or functions of the bureau.

3 Sec. 490D.007. FACILITIES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. The
4 institution of higher education that administers the bureau may
5 provide facilities and services to further the purposes of the
6 bureau.

7 Sec. 490D.008. DURATION. Section 2110.008 does not apply
8 to the bureau.

9 SECTION 2. In appointing the initial appointed members of
10 the steering committee of the Bureau for Economic Development of
11 the Border Region under Section 490D.002, Government Code, as added
12 by this Act:

13 (1) the lieutenant governor shall appoint one member
14 to serve a term expiring September 1, 2013;

15 (2) the speaker of the house of representatives shall
16 appoint the member under Section 490D.002(c)(2), as added by this
17 Act, to serve a term expiring September 1, 2013;

18 (3) the administration of The University of Texas at
19 Brownsville shall appoint one member to serve a term expiring
20 September 1, 2013;

21 (4) the administration of The University of Texas--Pan
22 American shall appoint one member to serve a term expiring
23 September 1, 2013;

24 (5) the administration of The University of Texas at
25 El Paso shall appoint one member to serve a term expiring September
26 1, 2012;

27 (6) the administration of The University of Texas at

1 San Antonio shall appoint one member to serve a term expiring
2 September 1, 2012; and

3 (7) the administration of Texas A&M International
4 University shall appoint one member to serve a term expiring
5 September 1, 2012.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 397 was passed by the House on April 29, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 116, Nays 29, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 397 on May 23, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 104, Nays 38, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 397 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 26, Nays 5.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor