

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a commission to study unclaimed land grant mineral proceeds.

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

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

- (1) the Crown of Spain;
- (2) Mexico;
- (3) the Republic of Texas; or
- (4) this state.

SECTION 2. UNCLAIMED MINERAL PROCEEDS COMMISSION. (a) The Unclaimed Mineral Proceeds Commission is created to study and provide recommendations to the legislature regarding the distribution of mineral proceeds that are:

- (1) derived from an original land grant;
- (2) owned by a descendant of an original grantee;
- (3) unclaimed and presumed abandoned under Chapter 72, 73, 74, or 75, Property Code; and
- (4) delivered to the comptroller under Chapter 74, Property Code.

(b) The commission shall determine:

- (1) the amount of unclaimed original land grant mineral proceeds delivered to the comptroller that remain unclaimed

on December 1, 2014; and

(2) efficient and effective procedures under which the state may be required to:

(A) determine the owners of the proceeds;

(B) notify the owners of the proceeds; and

(C) distribute the proceeds to the owners.

(c) The commission consists of the following members:

(1) three members who represent the interests of land grant heirs, appointed by the governor;

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

(3) the lieutenant governor or up to two designees of the lieutenant governor;

(4) the speaker of the house of representatives or up to two designees of the speaker;

(5) the commissioner of the General Land Office or up to two designees of the commissioner;

(6) the comptroller or up to two designees of the comptroller;

(7) the executive director of the Texas Historical Commission or up to two designees of the executive director; and

(8) the state historian or the state historian's designee.

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

(e) Members of the commission shall be appointed or

1 designated, as appropriate, not later than December 31, 2013.

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

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

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

11 SECTION 3. REPORT ON UNCLAIMED MINERAL PROCEEDS. Not later
12 than January 1, 2015, the commission shall provide to the governor,
13 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a
14 final report on unclaimed original land grant mineral proceeds.
15 The final report must include:

16 (1) the amount of unclaimed original land grant
17 mineral proceeds delivered to the comptroller that remain unclaimed
18 on December 1, 2014;

19 (2) recommendations for efficient and effective
20 procedures under which the state may be required to:

21 (A) determine the owners of the proceeds;

22 (B) notify the owners of the proceeds; and

23 (C) distribute the proceeds to the owners;

24 (3) proposed legislation necessary to implement the
25 recommendations made in the final report;

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

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

3 SECTION 4. OTHER LAW. The commission is not subject to
4 Chapter 2110, Government Code.

5 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires and the
6 Unclaimed Mineral Proceeds Commission is abolished on June 1, 2015.

7 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
8 1, 2013.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 724 was passed by the House on May 9, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 724 was passed by the Senate on May 21, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor