

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 459
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 5, 2015; February 9, 2015,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business and Commerce;
 1-4 April 22, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 22, 2015,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17			X	

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 459 By: Watson

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the creation of the Advisory Council on Cultural
 1-22 Affairs in the office of the governor.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
 1-25 by adding Chapter 470 to read as follows:

1-26 CHAPTER 470. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1-27 Sec. 470.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-28 (1) "Council" means the Advisory Council on Cultural
 1-29 Affairs.

1-30 (2) "State agency" includes an institution of higher
 1-31 education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

1-32 Sec. 470.002. ESTABLISHMENT. The Advisory Council on
 1-33 Cultural Affairs is established in the office of the governor to
 1-34 advise the office on furthering the economic, social, legal, and
 1-35 political contributions and equality of the Hispanic population of
 1-36 this state.

1-37 Sec. 470.003. COMPOSITION; TERMS. (a) The council is
 1-38 composed of nine members appointed as follows:

1-39 (1) one ex officio member of the legislature appointed
 1-40 by the speaker of the house of representatives;

1-41 (2) one ex officio member of the legislature appointed
 1-42 by the lieutenant governor; and

1-43 (3) seven members appointed by the governor.

1-44 (b) Members appointed by the speaker of the house and the
 1-45 lieutenant governor serve two-year terms. Members appointed by the
 1-46 governor serve four-year staggered terms, with either three or four
 1-47 members' terms expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

1-48 (c) In making appointments to the council, the appointing
 1-49 officials shall attempt to achieve geographic representation of the
 1-50 Hispanic population from all areas of the state.

1-51 (d) The governor shall designate the chair and vice chair of
 1-52 the council from among the members of the council.

1-53 Sec. 470.004. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at least
 1-54 quarterly each fiscal year. The council may hold meetings by
 1-55 conference call.

1-56 Sec. 470.005. COMPENSATION. A member of the council is not
 1-57 entitled to compensation or reimbursement of expenses incurred in
 1-58 performing council duties.

1-59 Sec. 470.006. DUTIES. The council shall:

1-60 (1) monitor existing programs and legislation

- 2-1 designed to meet the needs of the Hispanic population;
 2-2 (2) serve as a liaison between the Hispanic community
 2-3 and the office of the governor and other governmental entities;
 2-4 (3) facilitate meetings with the Hispanic Caucus of
 2-5 the senate, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus of the house of
 2-6 representatives, and the office of the governor to address the
 2-7 legislative needs of the Hispanic population;
 2-8 (4) assist the secretary of state in inviting public
 2-9 and business leaders from Spanish-speaking countries to the state;
 2-10 (5) recommend Hispanics to serve on appointed state
 2-11 boards and commissions;
 2-12 (6) work with the state demographer to assess the
 2-13 demographic indicators and milestones of the Hispanic population;
 2-14 (7) collaborate with business organizations,
 2-15 stakeholders, and the Texas Workforce Commission to review state
 2-16 and local policies that affect business creation and expansion in
 2-17 order to develop policy recommendations for:
 2-18 (A) streamlining or eliminating unnecessary
 2-19 barriers to business creation, retention, and expansion in order to
 2-20 develop greater entrepreneurship opportunities that will benefit
 2-21 the Hispanic population and Hispanic-owned businesses in high-need
 2-22 areas;
 2-23 (B) creating a better business climate to
 2-24 increase job creation, retention, and expansion opportunities for
 2-25 small and Hispanic-owned businesses;
 2-26 (C) assisting in revitalizing the industrial,
 2-27 manufacturing, and high technology sectors of the state's economy
 2-28 to better address the needs of the Hispanic workforce; and
 2-29 (D) strengthening employment opportunities to
 2-30 more effectively increase participation of Hispanics in
 2-31 well-paying jobs and lower the unemployment rate within the
 2-32 Hispanic population;
 2-33 (8) analyze the employment policies and practices of
 2-34 employers in the public and private sectors in order to develop
 2-35 recommendations on improving equal opportunity and treatment for
 2-36 the Hispanic population and other minorities in employment;
 2-37 (9) evaluate the development of methods and
 2-38 initiatives to assure fuller employment options and greater
 2-39 employment opportunities for Hispanics;
 2-40 (10) work with the education community and the private
 2-41 sector to develop appropriate recommendations and initiatives
 2-42 relating to the following goals:
 2-43 (A) retaining Hispanic students in public
 2-44 schools by decreasing the dropout rate;
 2-45 (B) closing the education achievement gap;
 2-46 (C) furthering the accomplishments of Hispanics
 2-47 enrolled in institutions of higher education;
 2-48 (D) increasing work-study, mentorship, and
 2-49 financial assistance for Hispanic students;
 2-50 (E) informing Hispanics about nontraditional
 2-51 education and employment opportunities; and
 2-52 (F) evaluating programs designed to provide
 2-53 equal educational opportunities to the Hispanic population, as
 2-54 mandated by state and federal law;
 2-55 (11) review licensing and regulation requirements in
 2-56 the state in order to:
 2-57 (A) determine the effect of those requirements on
 2-58 the Hispanic population's ability to enter into chosen occupations
 2-59 and to compete in the free market; and
 2-60 (B) develop recommendations to eliminate
 2-61 burdensome licensing requirements that negatively affect job
 2-62 growth and creation within the Hispanic community and other
 2-63 constituencies;
 2-64 (12) work with health and medical experts in the
 2-65 private sector and at institutions of higher education to identify
 2-66 pressing fundamental health concerns of the Hispanic population;
 2-67 (13) address equal treatment of the Hispanic
 2-68 population in the educational, judicial, and health systems by:
 2-69 (A) analyzing the application to the Hispanic

3-1 population of the laws of this state that govern those systems;
 3-2 (B) monitoring the implementation of laws that
 3-3 affect the legal rights and duties of the Hispanic population; and
 3-4 (C) educating members of the Hispanic population
 3-5 about their legal rights and duties; and
 3-6 (14) study and research any other related matter of
 3-7 importance to the council or the governor.

3-8 Sec. 470.007. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The council shall
 3-9 submit a report of the council's recommendations to the governor,
 3-10 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
 3-11 not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year.

3-12 (b) The council shall include in the report recommendations
 3-13 about:

3-14 (1) the status and funding of state programs designed
 3-15 to address the needs of the Hispanic population; and

3-16 (2) reforms, policies, and statutory changes to
 3-17 further the economic, social, legal, and political contributions of
 3-18 Hispanics in the state.

3-19 Sec. 470.008. EXEMPTION. Chapter 2110 does not apply to the
 3-20 council.

3-21 Sec. 470.009. ASSISTANCE OF STATE AGENCIES. State agencies
 3-22 and political subdivisions of this state shall cooperate with the
 3-23 council to the greatest extent practicable to fully implement the
 3-24 council's statutory duties.

3-25 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2015, the speaker of
 3-26 the house of representatives, the lieutenant governor, and the
 3-27 governor shall appoint the members of the Advisory Council on
 3-28 Cultural Affairs established by Chapter 470, Government Code, as
 3-29 added by this Act. In appointing the initial members of the
 3-30 council, the governor shall appoint three persons to terms expiring
 3-31 February 1, 2017, and four to terms expiring February 1, 2019.

3-32 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 3-33 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 3-34 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 3-35 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 3-36 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

3-37 * * * * *