

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1745
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; March 26, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Local Government;
 1-4 May 13, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
 1-5 Nays 0, one present not voting; May 13, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the creation of a joint interim committee to study
 1-20 colonias and colonia initiatives in this state.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. INTERIM COMMITTEE; STUDY. (a) In this section,
 1-23 "colonia" has the meaning assigned by Section 2306.581, Government
 1-24 Code.

1-25 (b) A joint interim committee is established to study
 1-26 colonias and colonia initiatives in this state.

1-27 (c) The joint interim committee is composed of the members
 1-28 of the standing committees of the legislature with primary
 1-29 jurisdiction over colonias and colonia issues. The committee
 1-30 members shall select a presiding officer from among the membership.

1-31 (d) In conducting the study under this section, the joint
 1-32 interim committee shall:

1-33 (1) determine the best methods for updating and
 1-34 maintaining colonia identification systems and for identifying and
 1-35 classifying colonias in which the highest public health risks
 1-36 exist;

1-37 (2) consider whether colonias should be defined
 1-38 uniformly across all relevant state agencies and whether that
 1-39 definition should include essential metrics such as:

- 1-40 (A) economic mobility levels;
- 1-41 (B) poverty levels;
- 1-42 (C) mortality rates;
- 1-43 (D) health professional shortage area scores;

1-44 and
 1-45 (E) the average level of education attained by
 1-46 colonia residents;

1-47 (3) to address the enduring lack of services and
 1-48 infrastructure in colonias, assess best practices and funding needs
 1-49 for surveying the services and infrastructure available in, and
 1-50 demographics of, each colonia;

1-51 (4) assess the status of state agency tracking and
 1-52 reporting of state-funded colonia projects and whether
 1-53 improvements to the tracking or reporting mechanisms are necessary;

1-54 (5) determine and assess any non-infrastructure needs
 1-55 within colonias and options for this state to address those needs;
 1-56 and

1-57 (6) assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on
 1-58 colonias and whether additional state services are necessary to
 1-59 address those impacts.

1-60 (e) The joint interim committee has all other powers and
 1-61 duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the

2-1 senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
2-2 Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees
2-3 on administration.

2-4 (f) Not later than September 1, 2022, the joint interim
2-5 committee shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant
2-6 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
2-7 legislature a written report that includes the findings of the
2-8 committee under this section, including any legislative
2-9 recommendations.

2-10 SECTION 2. ABOLITION OF COMMITTEE. The joint interim
2-11 committee established by Section 1 of this Act is abolished and this
2-12 Act expires November 1, 2022.

2-13 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
2-14 1, 2021.

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