

GOVERNMENT CODE  
CHAPTER 752. IMMIGRATION

SUBCHAPTER A. OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS

Sec. 752.001. OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS. The Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs is created within the Texas Department of Human Services. Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 526, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 752.003. REFUGEE COORDINATOR. The governor shall appoint a refugee coordinator for the office to serve at the pleasure of the governor. The refugee coordinator shall serve as chief administrative officer of the office and shall ensure coordination of public and private resources in refugee resettlement.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 526, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Sec. 752.004. APPLICATION FOR AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FUNDS. The office shall apply for the maximum amount of federal funds available through the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.) and the Refugee Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. Section 1521 et seq.). The office shall apply for those funds and shall distribute the funds to agencies responsible for providing services to newly legalized aliens and refugees in accordance with federal law. The office may retain a portion of the federal funds to cover reasonable costs incurred in securing and administering the funds. The office may delegate to an appropriate state agency the administration of funds under this section.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.005. ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE LEGALIZATION IMPACT ASSISTANCE GRANT (SLIAG) AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. The office shall annually submit a report on the status of the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning, detailing the actual amount of federal funds received and the purposes for which the funds were expended. The report shall be developed in conjunction with state agencies receiving funds and in consultation with the Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugees. The office shall submit the first report under this section not later than September 1, 1992.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.006. SPENDING PLAN FOR FEDERAL FUNDS. The office shall develop a spending plan for fiscal years 1993 and 1994 proposing spending priorities for SLIAG funds for services to eligible legalized aliens and for other federal funds available to benefit immigrants and refugees in the state. The plan shall be developed in conjunction with affected state agencies and with the advice and recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugees. The plan shall be submitted to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning not later than September 1, 1992.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.007. OTHER FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE. In addition to other duties prescribed by this subchapter, the office shall:

(1) coordinate public and private programs for the benefit of immigrants and refugees;

(2) receive and address inquiries relating to the services available to immigrants or refugees at the local, state, and federal levels; and

(3) assist local communities with the development of programs to address the needs of immigrants and refugees at the local level.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.008. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The office may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for the benefit of immigrant or refugee programs within the state.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.009. FUNDING. Except for any unspent appropriations transferred under this Act or any gifts, grants, or donations accepted under this Act, the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs may use only federal funds to perform the duties prescribed by this Act.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND

REFUGEES

Sec. 752.021. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES. The Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugees is created within the office of the governor. The committee shall advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs on immigration and refugee issues, including the SLIAG program authorized by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.) and the refugee assistance programs authorized by the Refugee Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. Section 1521 et seq.).

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.022. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE; TERMS; PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) The committee is composed of 12 members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate as follows:

- (1) two representatives of the refugee population;
- (2) two representatives of the immigrant population;
- (3) three representatives of local provider programs that serve immigrants or refugees and that receive federal funds, with one each from a public health program, a public assistance program, and an education program;
- (4) three representatives from voluntary resettlement agencies that receive state or federal funds;
- (5) one representative from a legal organization that is involved in issues relating to immigrants or refugees; and
- (6) one representative from a service organization that works with immigrants or refugees.

(b) Committee members serve for terms of two years that expire February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

(c) The governor shall appoint a member of the committee to serve as the chair of the committee for a one-year term.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.023. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS. A member of the committee may not receive compensation for service on the committee but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing the member's duties subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by the General Appropriations Act for a state employee.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.024. FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEE. The committee shall:

(1) advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs regarding policy, planning, and priorities for the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs;

(2) advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs regarding coordination of the efforts of all public agencies involved in health, human services, and education matters that relate to federal immigration and refugee laws and rules or implementation of the SLIAG program or refugee assistance programs;

(3) encourage communication and cooperation among local agencies and programs, state agencies, immigration-related and refugee-related legal and service agencies, and the federal government;

(4) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs in applying for the maximum amount of federal funds available for SLIAG-related programs and activities and refugee-related programs and activities and in identifying local programs and costs relating to immigration or refugees for which the state or a political subdivision may receive reimbursement;

(5) provide information to programs and activities that serve and encourage legalization and education of residents of this state;

(6) review federal issues regarding the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs to encourage the development of a state response to federal issues;

(7) review and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs and state agencies to ensure that the system of fiscal and program operations for the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs is consistent with existing state and federal requirements;

(8) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs in the development of an annual report on the status of the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs in the state;

(9) advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs on other related matters as

directed by the governor; and

(10) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs in the development of a spending plan for fiscal years 1993 and 1994 proposing spending priorities for SLIAG funds for services to eligible legalized aliens and for other federal funds available to benefit immigrants or refugees in the state.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.

Sec. 752.026. FUNDING. Except for any unspent appropriations transferred under this subchapter or gifts, grants, or donations accepted under this subchapter, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugees may use only federal funds to perform the duties prescribed by this subchapter.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 627, Sec. 2, eff. Sept. 1, 1991.