

## CHAPTER 890

H.B. No. 1511

## AN ACT

relating to the creation, powers, and duties of the Texas Space Commission.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:***SECTION 1. COMMISSION; MEMBERS.** (a) The Texas Space Commission is created.

(b) The commission is composed of nine members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. To be eligible for appointment, a person must have demonstrated experience in space research, economic development in the private sector, marketing, banking, or research and development in science or engineering.

(c) Appointments to the commission shall be made without regard to the race, sex, religion, handicap, age, or national origin of the appointee.

(d) Members of the commission hold office for staggered terms of six years, with three members' terms expiring on February 1 of each odd-numbered year. In the event of a vacancy during a term, the governor shall appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications of the vacated office to fill the unexpired portion of the term.

(e) The commission shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman for two years. The chairman shall have a vote on all matters before the commission.

(f) The commission shall meet at least once in each quarter of the calendar year. The commission may meet at other times at the call of the chairman or as provided by the rules of the commission.

(g) A member of the commission may not receive compensation for serving on the commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing functions as a member of the commission.

(h) A person who is required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, may not serve as a member of the commission or act as general counsel to the commission.

**SECTION 2. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.** (a) The commission shall encourage economic development in this state by fostering the development of industries related to the commercialization of space.

(b) The commission shall analyze space-related research currently conducted in this state and may conduct activities designed to further that research.

(c) Not later than the 30th day of each regular session, the commission shall report to the legislature regarding its activities under this Act.

(d) The commission may solicit and accept public and private donations and grants. All funds received under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of a special account to be named the Texas Space Commission account. The account may be used to administer the functions of the commission. If at any time general revenue is utilized to fund the commission, a separate account in the state treasury shall be utilized to deposit the general revenue. This account shall be used to fund the functions of the commission and any other function of state government determined by the General Appropriations Act.

(e) The commission may hire staff as necessary to perform its duties under this Act. The commission may hire a general counsel.

**SECTION 3. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT.** The commission is subject to the Texas Sunset Act (Chapter 325, Government Code). Unless continued in existence as provided by that Act, the commission is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 1993.

**SECTION 4. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.** In making the initial appointments to the commission, the governor shall designate three members for terms expiring in 1989, three members for terms expiring in 1991, and three members for terms expiring in 1993.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act takes effect September 1, 1988; provided, however, that this Act is contingent on a positive recommendation being made in writing to the governor prior to September 1, 1988, by the chairman of the Space Science Industry Commission established by Senate Resolution No. 210, 70th Legislature.

**SECTION 6. EMERGENCY.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 28, 1987, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1511 on May 31, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 30, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective as provided in § 5.