

CHAPTER 373

H.B. No. 3

AN ACT

relating to an agency for the planning of state economic development.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that:

(1) the changing nature of the state's economy requires a more diversified approach to promote economic growth and job creation; and

(2) the state does not have a long-term economic development policy and has suffered from lack of a long-term plan in its attempt to resolve the economic problems that continue to plague the state.

(b) It is the policy of this state, in the interest of promoting the general welfare, to formulate a comprehensive plan for diversifying and developing the economy of the state and to provide for the establishment of a strategic economic policy commission for the purpose of devising that plan.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION. In this Act, "commission" means the Texas Strategic Economic Policy Commission.

SECTION 3. COMMISSION. (a) The Texas Strategic Economic Policy Commission consists of:

- (1) the governor;
- (2) the lieutenant governor;
- (3) the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (4) the members of the Texas Department of Commerce;
- (5) three persons appointed by the governor;
- (6) three persons appointed by the lieutenant governor; and
- (7) three persons appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The governor is chairman of the commission. The commission shall elect its vice-chairman from among its members.

(c) Appointed members of the commission serve terms of two years. A person is not ineligible for appointment to the commission because the person holds another state office.

(d) An appointment to fill a vacancy of a commission member shall be made in the same manner as an original appointment.

(e) A member of the commission is not entitled to compensation for services as a commission member but is entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the performance of those services.

(f) An affirmative vote of a majority of the entire membership of the commission is necessary for an action of the commission.

(g) The commission shall meet at least quarterly and shall hold special meetings at the call of the governor.

(h) The executive director and staff of the Texas Economic Development Commission shall serve as the executive director and staff of the commission and shall, under the direction of the commission, perform the administrative duties necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION. The commission shall:

(1) develop a comprehensive, long-range strategic plan for diversifying and developing the economy of the state;

(2) examine the competitive advantages and disadvantages of Texas as a place to do business and make recommendations for improving the business climate of the state;

(3) evaluate the performance of existing state economic development efforts for consistency and coordination and for their effect on job creation and evaluate the long-term benefits to the state of those efforts;

(4) review economic development policy recommendations made by other agencies or organizations and recommend to the governor and legislature those strategies, policies, and programs that the commission considers in the best interest of the state;

(5) study the economic development programs and policies of other states and determine the feasibility of adapting those programs or policies for implementation in this state;

(6) undertake specialized studies and prepare specialized reports;

(7) hold public hearings and receive recommendations from interested persons and organizations;

(8) as appropriate, appoint task forces or other panels, from within or outside the membership of the commission, to study and report on specific issues;

(9) conduct a biennial review of economic development activities in the state; and

(10) perform other duties and functions necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS. In addition to its other duties and functions, the commission may recommend policies and programs for:

(1) fostering the creation of new businesses, including high technology businesses, and the retention and expansion of existing business enterprises;

(2) increasing the availability of capital for business start-ups and expansions;

(3) encouraging and strengthening local economic development efforts and improving coordination between state and local economic development activities;

(4) improving the skills of the state's work force and enhancing the coordination of state and local job training and retraining activities;

(5) improving agricultural productivity and otherwise maximizing the state's agricultural capabilities;

(6) attracting new industries and investment to the state;

(7) developing the state's university-based and private sector research and development resources and obtaining additional federal research and development funding;

(8) establishing more effective working relationships among state agencies engaged in economic development functions;

(9) increasing the export of the state's agricultural products and other goods;

(10) enhancing tourism; and

(11) establishing state economic development offices in foreign countries.

SECTION 6. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PLAN. The commission shall submit a strategic economic plan to the legislature before January 1, 1989.

SECTION 7. ABOLITION OF COMMISSION. (a) It is the intent of the legislature that the commission serve temporarily and that the responsibility for maintaining and updating the state's economic policy be transferred to the Texas Economic Development Commission or its successor on June 1, 1989.

(b) Unless continued in existence by the legislature, the Texas Strategic Economic Policy Commission is abolished June 1, 1989, and its duties and functions are transferred on that date to the Texas Economic Development Commission or its successor.

SECTION 8. ALTERNATIVE MEMBERS. If the Texas Department of Commerce is not created by the Acts of the 70th Legislature, Regular Session, 1987, the positions on the commission to be filled by the members of that department shall be filled by the chairman of the Texas Economic Development Commission and two members of that commission appointed by that commission.

SECTION 9. 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, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 8, 1987, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3 on May 20, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 14, 1987, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 16, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.