

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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H.B. 649
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State Affairs
5/22/2003
Engrossed

This analysis utilizes the House Committee Report, which is the most recent version available to the Senate Research Center, and is not formatted to the style of the Senate Research Center. No amendments were added to H.B. 649 on the House floor.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

H.B. 7, enacted by the 77th Legislature, created the Office of Rural Community Affairs. H.B. 7 required an annual meeting of agency heads to discuss rural issues.

H.B. 649 adds agencies that were left out of H.B. 7 to the list of agencies required to attend the annual meeting and clarifies the purpose of the annual meeting.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 487.054(a), Government Code, to clarify that the additional purpose of the annual meeting is to aid the Office of Rural Community Affairs in developing rural policy and compiling their annual report. Adds several agencies to the list of agencies required to attend the annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 487, Government Code, by adding Sec. 487.0541 as follows:

Creates an interagency work group to develop a process to allow agencies to work together on rural issues, discuss and coordinate programs and services offered to rural communities and residents, and develop regulatory and legislative recommendations that would eliminate duplication and combine program services.

Requires the executive head of the agencies included under SECTION 1 to appoint a representative from the respective agency to serve as a member of an interagency work group.

Requires the work group to meet at the call of the executive director of the Office of Rural Community Affairs.

SECTION 3. Effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.