

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R3772 ATP-D

S.B. 326
By: Lucio
Business & Commerce
3/19/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, state agencies that interact with Mexico do not have a coordinated multi-agency plan to address issues concerning Mexico. As proposed, S.B. 326 requires the Texas Department of Economic Development to coordinate a plan and organize the various state agency initiatives regarding relations with Mexico.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Defines “department” and “initiative unit.”

SECTION 2. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Economic Development (department) to appoint to serve on the Texas-Mexico Commerce and International Relations Initiative Unit (unit) at least one department representative and one from the staff of each of certain listed agencies.

(b) Requires the department to designate one of the members of the initiative unit to serve as the presiding officer of the unit.

(c) Requires the department, with the assistance of the unit, to coordinate efforts with each of the agencies represented by the unit to undertake certain listed responsibilities.

(d) Requires the Texas-Mexico Commerce and International Relations Coordinated Plan (plan) to include recommendations on what the state can do increase and improve trade and tourism with Mexico and adjacent states and address important trade problems between Texas and Mexico.

(e) Requires each agency represented by the unit to submit quarterly reports to the department regarding the actions taken by the agency on behalf of the unit or in furtherance of a plan or recommendation of the unit, including certain listed items.

(f) Requires the department to form a partnership with the agencies represented by the unit to ensure that the Texas Business and Community Economic Development Clearinghouse has current knowledge of the plan and the actions taken by the unit and the agencies represented by the unit.

(g) Provides that Chapter 2110 (State Agency Advisory Committees), Government Code, does not apply to the unit.

SECTION 3. Requires the department, not later than September 1, 2002, to submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a detailed report of the plan and the

results of its study, accompanied by recommended solutions to any problems identified by the unit and recommendations for legislative action.

SECTION 4. Provides that this Act expires November 1, 2002.

SECTION 5. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.