



82nd Session Select Interim Charges Relating to Economic Development

December 7, 2011

Economic Development Committee

- Evaluate programs in Texas that are targeted to help the unemployed return to work, with a specific focus on the long-term unemployed. Evaluate and make policy recommendations for getting Texans back to work as soon as possible, enhancing job training/re-training for the long-term unemployed, and maximizing federal resources while maintaining flexibility in state programs assisting the unemployed.
- Evaluate the economic benefits of the 25 largest industries in this state, including energy, manufacturing, healthcare, tourism, etc. Determine the effectiveness of state programs designed to encourage and assist the growth of these industries. Consider economic development incentives targeting niche markets such as the creation of data centers, film incentives, etc., and make recommendations about whether incentives should be offered for specific industry clusters.
- Evaluate the current financing mechanism for the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, and make recommendations to improve the long-term financial health and stability of the Fund.
- Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Economic Development, 82nd Legislature, Regular and Called Sessions, and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation. Review the implementation of SB 1048, relating to public-private partnerships and analyze any recommendations made by the committee created by the Legislation.