

SUBJECT: Economic development incentives for firearms manufacturers

COMMITTEE: Economic and Small Business Development — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — J. Davis, Vo, Bell, Isaac, Murphy, Workman
2 nays — Perez, E. Rodriguez
1 absent — Y. Davis

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 10 — 24-7 (Birdwell, Ellis, Garcia, Rodriguez, Uresti, Watson, West)

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code, ch. 481, subch. B, the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office within the Office of the Governor is assigned certain duties related to promoting the state as a premier business location and tourist destination.

Sec. 481.078 outlines provisions for the Texas Enterprise Fund. The fund provides grants for economic, infrastructure, and community development, job training programs, and business incentives. The governor administers the fund on behalf of the state and must have the approval of the lieutenant governor and the House speaker before awarding grants.

DIGEST: CSSB 1467 would amend Government Code, ch. 481, subch. B to require the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office to facilitate the location or expansion into the state of manufacturers of firearms or related firearm products. This requirement of the Economic Development and Tourism Office would be accomplished by identifying manufacturers interested in expanding or relocating to this state and issuing requests for proposals for the location or expansion into this state of manufacturers.

The office would promptly review proposals received under this section and identify economic development incentives available under state law for which the proposal might be eligible. If a proposal was eligible for

funding under the Texas Enterprise Fund, the governor could negotiate any grant agreements on behalf of the state. If a proposal was eligible for other economic development incentives under state law, the Economic Development and Tourism Office would negotiate the issuance of those incentives on behalf of the state.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.