SUBCHAPTER A. OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS

Sec. 752.001. OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS. The Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs is created within the Texas Department of Human Services.

Sec. 752.003. REFUGEE COORDINATOR. The governor shall appoint a refugee coordinator for the office to serve at the pleasure of the governor. The refugee coordinator shall serve as chief administrative officer of the office and shall ensure coordination of public and private resources in refugee resettlement.

Sec. 752.004. APPLICATION FOR AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FUNDS. The office shall apply for the maximum amount of federal funds available through the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.) and the Refugee Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. Section 1521 et seq.). The office shall apply for those funds and shall distribute the funds to agencies responsible for providing services to newly legalized aliens and refugees in accordance with federal law. The office may retain a portion of the federal funds to cover reasonable costs incurred in securing and administering the funds. The office may delegate to an appropriate state agency the administration of funds under this section.

Sec. 752.007. OTHER FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE. In addition to
other duties prescribed by this subchapter, the office shall:

(1) coordinate public and private programs for the
benefit of immigrants and refugees;

(2) receive and address inquiries relating to the
services available to immigrants or refugees at the local, state,
and federal levels; and

(3) assist local communities with the development of
programs to address the needs of immigrants and refugees at the
local level.


Sec. 752.008. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The office may
solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for the benefit of
immigrant or refugee programs within the state.


Sec. 752.009. FUNDING. Except for any unspent
appropriations transferred under this Act or any gifts, grants, or
donations accepted under this Act, the Office of Immigration and
Refugee Affairs may use only federal funds to perform the duties
prescribed by this Act.


SUBCHAPTER B. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND
REFUGEES

Sec. 752.021. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
AND REFUGEES. The Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and
Refugees is created within the office of the governor. The
committee shall advise and make recommendations to the Office of
Immigration and Refugee Affairs on immigration and refugee issues,
including the SLIAG program authorized by the Immigration Reform
and Control Act of 1986 (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.) and the
refugee assistance programs authorized by the Refugee Act of 1980
(8 U.S.C. Section 1521 et seq.).

Sec. 752.022. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE; TERMS; PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) The committee is composed of 12 members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate as follows:

(1) two representatives of the refugee population;
(2) two representatives of the immigrant population;
(3) three representatives of local provider programs that serve immigrants or refugees and that receive federal funds, with one each from a public health program, a public assistance program, and an education program;
(4) three representatives from voluntary resettlement agencies that receive state or federal funds;
(5) one representative from a legal organization that is involved in issues relating to immigrants or refugees; and
(6) one representative from a service organization that works with immigrants or refugees.

(b) Committee members serve for terms of two years that expire February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

(c) The governor shall appoint a member of the committee to serve as the chair of the committee for a one-year term.


Sec. 752.023. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS. A member of the committee may not receive compensation for service on the committee but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing the member's duties subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by the General Appropriations Act for a state employee.


Sec. 752.024. FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEE. The committee shall:

(1) advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs regarding policy, planning, and priorities for the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs;
(2) advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs regarding coordination of the efforts of all public agencies involved in health, human services, and education matters that relate to federal immigration and
refugee laws and rules or implementation of the SLIAG program or refugee assistance programs;

(3) encourage communication and cooperation among local agencies and programs, state agencies, immigration-related and refugee-related legal and service agencies, and the federal government;

(4) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs in applying for the maximum amount of federal funds available for SLIAG-related programs and activities and refugee-related programs and activities and in identifying local programs and costs relating to immigration or refugees for which the state or a political subdivision may receive reimbursement;

(5) provide information to programs and activities that serve and encourage legalization and education of residents of this state;

(6) review federal issues regarding the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs to encourage the development of a state response to federal issues;

(7) review and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs and state agencies to ensure that the system of fiscal and program operations for the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs is consistent with existing state and federal requirements;

(8) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs in the development of an annual report on the status of the SLIAG program and refugee assistance programs in the state;

(9) advise and make recommendations to the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs on other related matters as directed by the governor; and

(10) assist the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs in the development of a spending plan for fiscal years 1993 and 1994 proposing spending priorities for SLIAG funds for services to eligible legalized aliens and for other federal funds available to benefit immigrants or refugees in the state.

Sec. 752.026. FUNDING. Except for any unspent appropriations transferred under this subchapter or gifts, grants, or donations accepted under this subchapter, the Governor's Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugees may use only federal funds to perform the duties prescribed by this subchapter.