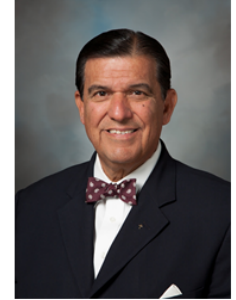




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April 30, 2014

**Senator Lucio appointed to Joint Interim Committee  
to Study Coastal Barriers**

**AUSTIN** - Senator Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville) was appointed to the Joint Interim Committee to Study Coastal Barriers., Lt. Governor David Dewhurst announced today (Wednesday). The committee will study the effect of changes made to the Texas Open Beaches Act during the 83rd Legislative Session in 2013, according to a press release from the Lt. Governor's office. The committee will also examine the feasibility of maintaining a coastal barrier system in Texas and of authorizing coastal property owners to grant easements to build and maintain stabilized dunes.

"I look forward to representing the interests of Texas Gulf residents on this joint interim committee," Senator Lucio said. "The Gulf region has a vested economic interest in issues related to erosion control and maintenance of the beaches. In my senate district, millions of tourists come each year to South Padre Island's beaches alone. The City is an economic engine for South Texas and the state, contributing more than \$13 million a year in state tax dollars. It's important that the state explore appropriate steps to ensure the Texas Gulf continues to thrive as a premier tourist destination."

The Joint Interim Committee to Study Coastal Barriers was created pursuant to [House Bill 3459](#), legislation passed during the 83rd Legislative Session in 2013. The bill makes several changes to the state's Natural Resources Code amending provisions relating to the determination of the boundaries of, and the enforcement of the law governing access to, public beaches.

Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood), the Senate sponsor of HB 3459, has also been appointed to the committee.

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