

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 54

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the establishment of the School Psychologists Shortage
3 Task Force.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

6 (1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of
7 education.

8 (2) "Task force" means the School Psychologists
9 Shortage Task Force established under Section 2 of this Act.

10 SECTION 2. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS SHORTAGE TASK FORCE. (a)
11 The commissioner shall establish the School Psychologists Shortage
12 Task Force to study issues related to the shortage of school
13 psychologists.

14 (b) The members of the task force must include:

15 (1) three members appointed by the lieutenant governor
16 as follows:

17 (A) two members of the senate; and

18 (B) one licensed specialist in school
19 psychology;

20 (2) three members appointed by the speaker of the
21 house of representatives as follows:

22 (A) two members of the house of representatives;

23 and

24 (B) one licensed specialist in school

1 psychology; and

2 (3) one member of the State Board of Education
3 appointed by the commissioner.

4 (c) The Texas Education Agency shall provide administrative
5 support to the task force.

6 (d) The commissioner shall appoint a member of the task
7 force to serve as the presiding officer.

8 (e) The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding
9 officer.

10 (f) The task force shall:

11 (1) conduct a study on the issues related to the
12 shortage of school psychologists among school districts, including
13 supply and demand issues for school-based psychological services
14 among districts; and

15 (2) provide recommendations for increasing the
16 presence of school psychologists in school districts and increasing
17 the use of school-based psychological services, as needed.

18 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2024, the
19 task force shall submit a report to the governor and the legislature
20 that includes the task force's findings and recommendations under
21 this Act.

22 SECTION 4. ABOLITION OF TASK FORCE; EXPIRATION. The task
23 force is abolished and this Act expires January 1, 2026.

24 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
25 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
26 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
27 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

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1 immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
2 last day of the legislative session.