

By: Thimesch

H.B. No. 4655

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the establishment of the vulnerable adult protection  
3 task force.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Task force" means the vulnerable adult protection  
7 task force established by this Act.

8 (2) "Vulnerable adult" means:

9 (A) an elderly person as that term is defined by  
10 Section 48.002, Human Resources Code; or

11 (B) a person with a disability as that term is  
12 defined by Section 48.002, Human Resources Code.

13 (b) The vulnerable adult protection task force is  
14 established to study abuse of vulnerable adults in this state.

15 (c) The task force is composed of:

16 (1) the commissioner of the Department of Family and  
17 Protective Services or the commissioner's designee;

18 (2) the banking commissioner of the Texas Department  
19 of Banking or the banking commissioner's designee;

20 (3) a district attorney selected by the Texas District  
21 and County Attorneys Association;

22 (4) the following members appointed by the governor  
23 from a list of names submitted by the speaker of the house of  
24 representatives:

1 (A) a representative from the banking or credit  
2 union industry;

3 (B) a representative from an unaffiliated  
4 nonprofit organization that advocates for elderly persons  
5 statewide; and

6 (C) a representative from the health care  
7 industry;

8 (5) two members of the house of representatives  
9 selected by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

10 (6) two members of the senate selected by the  
11 lieutenant governor.

12 (d) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for  
13 service on the task force or reimbursement for expenses incurred in  
14 performing task force duties.

15 (e) The task force shall:

16 (1) assess the status of vulnerable adults in this  
17 state;

18 (2) examine existing services and resources  
19 addressing the needs of vulnerable adults in this state and any  
20 barriers impeding those services and resources;

21 (3) determine the economic and human impact of  
22 financial exploitation of vulnerable adults in this state;

23 (4) review possible solutions that could reduce the  
24 incidents of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults in this  
25 state; and

26 (5) develop recommendations to address abuse of  
27 vulnerable adults in this state, including:

1 (A) possible legislation; and

2 (B) other state policies or responses.

3 (f) A state agency shall cooperate with and assist the task  
4 force in carrying out the duties of the task force.

5 (g) Not later than December 31, 2024, the task force shall:

6 (1) prepare a written report that summarizes the task  
7 force's findings under this section and recommends solutions for  
8 improving the well-being of vulnerable adults in this state; and

9 (2) submit the written report to the:

10 (A) governor;

11 (B) lieutenant governor;

12 (C) speaker of the house of representatives;

13 (D) chair of the House Human Services Committee;

14 and

15 (E) chair of the Senate Health and Human Services  
16 Committee.

17 (h) The task force is abolished and this Act expires June 1,  
18 2025.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.