

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 1437

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the task force on pollinator health.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 131, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 131.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 131.011. TASK FORCE ON POLLINATOR HEALTH. (a) In this section, "task force" means the task force on pollinator health under this section. The governor shall establish the task force and the membership of the task force.

(b) The task force consists of members appointed by the governor, including:

(1) one member who is a university faculty member specializing in the science of pollinator health;

(2) one member representing an advocacy group for nurseries and greenhouse producers;

(3) one member representing an advocacy group for agriculture in this state;

(4) one member representing an advocacy group dedicated to the protection of pollinators and invertebrates;

(5) one member representing an advocacy group for pesticide applicators;

(6) one member who is certified as a master gardener by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and who represents the public;

1 (7) one member who is a beekeeper and who represents
2 the public; and

3 (8) one member who is an employee of the Parks and
4 Wildlife Department who specializes in melittology.

5 (c) The task force shall undertake activities to examine
6 issues relevant to pollinator health, including:

7 (1) identifying ways the state can incentivize the
8 development of new pollinator habitat in residential, commercial,
9 and public areas;

10 (2) studying public education and outreach plans
11 regarding pollinator health that have been successful in other
12 states;

13 (3) investigating the means used by other states to
14 gather data on populations of bees or other pollinating insects;
15 and

16 (4) identifying ways to prevent loss of pollinator
17 habitat.

18 (d) The task force may take actions necessary and proper to
19 carry out the work of the task force, including scheduling hearings
20 and taking testimony on matters related to pollinator health.

21 (e) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes
22 a quorum for the transaction of business.

23 (f) Official action by the task force requires the approval
24 of a majority of the members of the task force.

25 (g) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as
26 presiding officer.

27 (h) The governor shall appoint a qualified person to fill a

1 vacancy on the task force.

2 (i) The task force shall meet at times and places specified
3 by the call of the presiding officer or of a majority of the members
4 of the task force.

5 (j) The task force may adopt bylaws necessary for the
6 operation of the task force.

7 (k) Not later than October 1, 2026, the task force shall
8 submit a report, which may include recommendations for legislation,
9 to the standing committees of the senate and the house of
10 representatives with primary jurisdiction over agriculture. The
11 task force may provide progress reports to those committees before
12 October 1, 2026.

13 (l) The governor may provide staff support to the task
14 force.

15 (m) Members of the task force are not entitled to
16 compensation but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel
17 and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official
18 duties in the manner and amounts provided for in the General
19 Appropriations Act.

20 (n) Each state agency shall assist the task force in the
21 performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws
22 relating to confidentiality, shall furnish information and advice
23 that the members of the task force consider necessary to perform
24 their duties.

25 (o) A member of the task force may participate remotely in a
26 meeting of the task force by means of a video conference call or
27 online service.

1 (p) This section expires December 31, 2026.

2 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2025, the governor
3 shall appoint the members of the task force on pollinator health
4 under Section 131.011(b), Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.