

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 1486

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation, powers, and duties of a cervical cancer task force.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 113 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 113. CERVICAL CANCER TASK FORCE

Sec. 113.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Department of State Health Services.

(2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(3) "Task force" means the cervical cancer task force established under this chapter.

Sec. 113.002. DUTIES. The task force shall:

(1) study the prevalence and burden of cervical cancer;

(2) promote public awareness on the causes and nature of cervical cancer, personal risk factors, the value of prevention and early detection, options for testing, treatment costs, new technology, medical care reimbursement, and physician education;

(3) examine new and emerging medicines, including vaccines, that are being developed in an effort to prevent, control, and cure cervical cancer;

1           (4) identify and examine the limitations of existing  
2 programs, services, and laws relating to cervical cancer awareness  
3 and the availability of health insurance coverage and public  
4 services for the diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer;

5           (5) develop a statewide comprehensive Cervical Cancer  
6 Prevention Plan and strategies to implement and promote the plan;

7           (6) facilitate coordination and communication among  
8 state and local agencies and organizations in achieving the goals  
9 of the Cervical Cancer Prevention Plan; and

10           (7) receive reports and testimony from individuals,  
11 local health departments, community-based organizations, and other  
12 public and private organizations to gather input on their  
13 contributions to and ideas for improving cervical cancer diagnosis,  
14 prevention, and treatment.

15           Sec. 113.003. POWERS. To implement this section, the task  
16 force may:

17           (1) apply for, receive, accept, and administer gifts,  
18 grants, and other funds available from any source; and

19           (2) contract with the federal government, the state,  
20 interstate agencies, local governmental agencies, and private  
21 entities.

22           Sec. 113.004. REPORT. Not later than October 15 of each  
23 even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report to the  
24 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of  
25 representatives stating:

26           (1) the progress of the task force in accomplishing  
27 the goals described by Section 113.002; and

1           (2) recommendations for legislation and rule changes.

2           Sec. 113.005. COMPOSITION. (a) The task force consists  
3 of nine members as follows:

4           (1) three members appointed by the governor,  
5 including:

6                   (A) one public member;

7                   (B) one tenured professor at a medical school or  
8 teaching hospital in this state; and

9                   (C) one representative of the health insurance  
10 industry;

11           (2) three members appointed by the lieutenant  
12 governor, including:

13                   (A) one state senator;

14                   (B) one representative of a women's health  
15 organization; and

16                   (C) one member in good standing of the American  
17 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and

18           (3) three members appointed by the speaker of the  
19 house of representatives, including:

20                   (A) one member of the house of representatives;

21                   (B) one licensed physician whose practice  
22 includes oncology; and

23                   (C) one representative of a cancer support,  
24 education, or prevention organization, or a researcher who has  
25 published one or more articles on cervical cancer in a medical  
26 journal.

27           (b) The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a

1 majority of the membership of the task force.

2 (c) Members serve staggered two-year terms. Four or five  
3 members' terms expire February 1 of each year.

4 (d) An appointment to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term  
5 of a member shall be made not later than the 90th day after the date  
6 the position becomes vacant.

7 Sec. 113.006. MEETINGS. The task force shall meet at the  
8 call of the presiding officer.

9 Sec. 113.007. REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. A task force  
10 member is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to  
11 reimbursement for the member's travel expenses as provided by  
12 Chapter 660, Government Code, and the General Appropriations Act.

13 Sec. 113.008. PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES. (a) The task  
14 force is administratively attached to the department.

15 (b) The executive commissioner shall appoint a director to  
16 staff the task force.

17 (c) The department shall provide the necessary staff to  
18 assist the director in performing the task force's duties.

19 Sec. 113.009. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110,  
20 Government Code, does not apply to the task force.

21 Sec. 113.010. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires and the  
22 task force is abolished October 16, 2008.

23 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than November 1, 2005, members  
24 shall be appointed to the cervical cancer task force as required by  
25 Section 113.005, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act. The  
26 terms of the initial members of the task force shall be determined  
27 by lot so that:

1           (1) five members' terms expire February 1, 2006; and

2           (2) four members' terms expire February 1, 2007.

3           (b) Not later than December 31, 2005, the cervical cancer  
4 task force shall meet as required by Section 113.006, Health and  
5 Safety Code, as added by this Act.

6           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.