

By: Strama

H.B. No. 4328

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of the Interagency Literacy Council
3 for the study, promotion, and enhancement of literacy in this
4 state.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by
7 adding Chapter 312 to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 312. INTERAGENCY LITERACY COUNCIL

9 Sec. 312.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "council" means
10 the Interagency Literacy Council established under this chapter.

11 Sec. 312.002. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. The Interagency
12 Literacy Council is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas
13 Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that
14 chapter, the council is abolished and this chapter expires
15 September 1, 2019.

16 Sec. 312.003. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION. (a) The
17 commission shall establish the Interagency Literacy Council. The
18 council is composed of nine members as follows:

19 (1) a representative of the commission, appointed by
20 the executive director;

21 (2) a representative of the Texas Education Agency,
22 appointed by the commissioner of education;

23 (3) a representative of the Texas Higher Education
24 Coordinating Board, appointed by the commissioner of higher

1 education; and

2 (4) six public members who are leaders of the business
3 or nonprofit community engaged in literacy promotion efforts,
4 appointed by the executive director of the commission.

5 (b) The representative appointed under Subsection (a)(1)
6 shall serve as the presiding officer of the council.

7 Sec. 312.004. COMMISSION DUTIES. The commission shall
8 provide staff and resources as necessary for the operation of the
9 council.

10 Sec. 312.005. TERMS; VACANCY. (a) Members of the council
11 serve two-year terms, with the terms expiring February 1 of each
12 odd-numbered year.

13 (b) A member may be reappointed.

14 (c) A vacancy on the council shall be filled for the
15 remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as provided by
16 Section 312.003(a).

17 Sec. 312.006. MEETINGS. (a) The council shall meet in
18 person at least three times each year and may hold meetings by
19 conference call if necessary. The council shall invite
20 stakeholders to participate in at least one council meeting each
21 year and provide an opportunity for submission of oral or written
22 testimony.

23 (b) Section 551.125, Government Code, applies to a meeting
24 held by conference call under this section, except that Section
25 551.125(b), Government Code, does not apply.

26 Sec. 312.007. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. (a) A member
27 of the council may not receive compensation for service on the

1 council.

2 (b) A public member may be reimbursed for the member's
3 actual and necessary expenses for meals, lodging, transportation,
4 and incidental expenses incurred while performing council
5 business, subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement
6 prescribed by the General Appropriations Act.

7 Sec. 312.008. COUNCIL POWERS AND DUTIES. The council
8 shall:

9 (1) study current research to assess the adult
10 literacy needs in this state, including literacy needs relating to
11 business and finance, workforce and technology, civics, and health
12 and wellness;

13 (2) consult with key stakeholders to identify:
14 (A) barriers to improving literacy; and
15 (B) evidence-based best practices for improving
16 literacy;

17 (3) review the status of the programs and services
18 administered by each agency or entity represented on the council
19 that promote literacy in an effort to coordinate efforts, align
20 services, reduce redundancies, implement best practices, integrate
21 support services, and improve accountability;

22 (4) build existing funding streams and identify
23 additional state and federal funding sources available for the
24 promotion of literacy in this state; and

25 (5) raise literacy awareness and engage community
26 leaders in creative solution building for improving literacy in
27 this state.

1 Sec. 312.009. STATEWIDE LITERACY PLAN; REPORT. (a) The
2 council shall develop a comprehensive statewide action plan for the
3 improvement of literacy in this state, including a recommended
4 timeline for implementation.

5 (b) The council shall submit to both houses of the
6 legislature and the governor on or before November 1 of each
7 even-numbered year a written report on:

8 (1) the development of the council's statewide action
9 plan;

10 (2) the actions taken in furtherance of the plan;

11 (3) the areas that need improvement in implementing
12 the plan;

13 (4) any change to the plan; and

14 (5) the programs and services that address literacy
15 needs in this state.

16 Sec. 312.010. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The commission
17 may accept for the council a gift, grant, or donation from any
18 source to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

19 Sec. 312.011. RULES. The commission may adopt rules
20 necessary to implement this chapter.

21 SECTION 2. (a) The Interagency Literacy Council shall
22 submit the initial report required under Section 312.009(b), Labor
23 Code, as added by this Act, not later than November 1, 2012.

24 (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
25 Act, the designated appointing officials shall appoint the members
26 to the Interagency Literacy Council established under Chapter 312,
27 Labor Code, as added by this Act.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.