

1-1 By: Uresti S.B. No. 2080
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2009; March 31, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;
1-4 May 1, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 1, 2009, sent
1-6 to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2080 By: Uresti

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the establishment of a strategy for reducing child
1-11 abuse and neglect and improving child welfare.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. In this Act, "task force" means the task force
1-14 established under this Act to establish a strategy for reducing
1-15 child abuse and neglect and improving child welfare.

1-16 SECTION 2. (a) The task force consists of 15 members
1-17 appointed as follows:

1-18 (1) five members appointed by the governor;

1-19 (2) five members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

1-20 and

1-21 (3) five members appointed by the speaker of the house
1-22 of representatives.

1-23 (b) Members of the task force must be individuals who are
1-24 actively involved in the fields of the prevention of child abuse and
1-25 neglect and child welfare. The appointment of members must reflect
1-26 the geographic diversity of the state.

1-27 (c) A member of the task force is not entitled to
1-28 compensation for service on the task force but is entitled to
1-29 reimbursement for travel expenses as provided by Chapter 660,
1-30 Government Code, and the General Appropriations Act.

1-31 (d) The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a
1-32 majority vote of the membership of the task force.

1-33 (e) The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding
1-34 officer.

1-35 (f) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
1-36 task force.

1-37 SECTION 3. (a) The task force shall establish a strategy
1-38 for reducing child abuse and neglect and for improving child
1-39 welfare in this state. In establishing that strategy, the task
1-40 force shall:

1-41 (1) gather information concerning child safety, child
1-42 abuse and neglect, and child welfare throughout the state;

1-43 (2) review the exemptions from criminal liability
1-44 provided under the Penal Code to a mother who injures her unborn
1-45 child by using a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481,
1-46 Health and Safety Code, other than a controlled substance legally
1-47 obtained by prescription, during her pregnancy and examine the
1-48 effect that repealing the exemptions will have on reducing the
1-49 number of babies who are born addicted to a controlled substance;

1-50 (3) receive reports and testimony from individuals,
1-51 state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
1-52 public and private organizations;

1-53 (4) create goals for state policy that would improve
1-54 child safety, prevent child abuse and neglect, and improve child
1-55 welfare; and

1-56 (5) submit a strategic plan to accomplish those goals.

1-57 (b) The strategic plan submitted under Subsection (a) of
1-58 this section may include proposals for specific statutory changes,
1-59 the creation of new programs, and methods to foster cooperation
1-60 among state agencies and between the state and local government.

1-61 SECTION 4. (a) The task force shall consult with employees
1-62 of the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Department
1-63 of State Health Services, and the Texas Department of Criminal

2-1 Justice as necessary to accomplish the task force's
2-2 responsibilities under this Act.

2-3 (b) The task force may cooperate as necessary with any other
2-4 appropriate state agency.

2-5 SECTION 5. (a) The governor, lieutenant governor, and
2-6 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members
2-7 of the task force not later than October 1, 2009.

2-8 (b) Not later than August 1, 2011, the task force shall
2-9 submit the strategic plan required by Section 3 of this Act to the
2-10 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
2-11 representatives.

2-12 (c) The task force is abolished and this Act expires on
2-13 September 1, 2011.

2-14 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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