

By: Kolkhorst, Naishtat

H.B. No. 1965

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the expansion of faith- and community-based health and
3 human services initiatives.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 535.051, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
7 follows:

8 (b) The chief administrative officer of each of the
9 following state agencies, in consultation with the governor, shall
10 designate one employee from the agency to serve as a liaison for
11 faith- and community-based organizations:

- 12 (1) the Texas Department [~~Office~~] of Rural [~~Community~~]
13 Affairs;
- 14 (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- 15 (3) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- 16 (4) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
17 Affairs;
- 18 (5) the Texas Education Agency;
- 19 (6) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- 20 (7) the Texas Veterans Commission;
- 21 (8) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- 22 (9) the Texas Youth Commission;
- 23 (10) the office of the governor;
- 24 (11) the Department of Public Safety;

1 (12) the Texas Department of Insurance;
2 (13) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;
3 (14) the office of the attorney general;
4 (15) the Department of Agriculture;
5 (16) the office of the comptroller;
6 (17) the Department of Information Resources;
7 (18) the Office of State-Federal Relations;
8 (19) the office of the secretary of state; and
9 (20) [~~(10)~~] other state agencies as determined by the
10 governor.

11 (c) The commissioner of higher education, in consultation
12 with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group,
13 shall designate one employee from an institution of higher
14 education, as that term is defined under Section 61.003, Education
15 Code, to serve as a liaison for faith- and community-based
16 organizations.

17 SECTION 2. Sections 535.053(a) and (b), Government Code,
18 are amended to read as follows:

19 (a) The interagency coordinating group for faith- and
20 community-based initiatives is composed of each faith- and
21 community-based liaison designated under Section 535.051 and a
22 liaison from the State Commission on National and Community
23 Service. The commission shall provide administrative support to
24 the interagency coordinating group.

25 (b) The liaison from the State Commission on National and
26 Community Service [~~commission employee designated as a liaison~~
27 ~~under Section 535.051]~~ is the presiding officer of the interagency

1 coordinating group. If the State Commission on National and
2 Community Service is abolished, the liaison from the governor's
3 office is the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating
4 group.

5 SECTION 3. Section 535.054, Government Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 535.054. REPORT [~~REPORTS~~]. (a) Not later than
8 December 1 of each year, the interagency coordinating group shall
9 submit a report to the legislature that describes in detail the
10 activities, goals, and progress of the interagency coordinating
11 group. [~~A liaison designated under Section 535.051 shall:~~

12 [~~(1) provide periodic reports to the executive~~
13 ~~commissioner or other chief executive officer who designated the~~
14 ~~liaison, as applicable, on a schedule determined by the person who~~
15 ~~designated the liaison; and~~

16 [~~(2) report annually to the governor's office of~~
17 ~~faith- and community-based initiatives and as necessary to the~~
18 ~~State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the~~
19 ~~liaison's efforts to comply with the duties imposed under Sections~~
20 ~~535.052 and 535.053.]~~

21 (b) The [~~Each~~] report made under Subsection (a) [~~(a)(2)~~]
22 must be made available to the public through posting on the office
23 of the governor's Internet website[, ~~and the reports may be~~
24 ~~aggregated into a single report for that purpose].~~

25 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 535, Government Code, is
26 amended by adding Section 535.055 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 535.055. TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH

1 NONPROFITS. (a) The interagency coordinating group task force is
2 established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in
3 carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission
4 shall provide administrative support to the task force.

5 (b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the
6 presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall
7 appoint as members of the task force one representative from each of
8 the following groups:

9 (1) private persons who provide funding for faith- and
10 community-based organizations;

11 (2) local governments;

12 (3) faith-based groups;

13 (4) community-based groups;

14 (5) consultants to nonprofit corporations;

15 (6) experts in grant writing; and

16 (7) the general public.

17 (c) In addition to the interagency coordinating group's
18 other duties, the interagency coordinating group, in coordination
19 with the task force, shall:

20 (1) develop and implement a plan for improving
21 contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and
22 community-based organizations;

23 (2) develop best practices for cooperating and
24 collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;

25 (3) identify and address duplication of services
26 provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations;

27 and

1 (4) identify and address gaps in state services that
2 faith- and community-based organizations could fill.

3 (d) The task force shall prepare a report describing actions
4 taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this
5 section and include in the report any recommendations relating to
6 legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group
7 under this section. The task force shall present the report to the
8 House Committee on Human Services or its successor, the House
9 Committee on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health
10 and Human Services Committee or its successor not later than
11 September 1, 2012.

12 (e) This section expires September 1, 2013.

13 SECTION 5. Not later than October 1, 2011, the executive
14 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
15 appoint members to the interagency coordinating group task force in
16 accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as added by this
17 Act.

18 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.