

By: Walle

H.B. No. 2505

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of a task force on lowering the
3 incidence of premature births and improving the care of premature
4 infants.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

7 (1) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
8 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

9 (2) "Department" means the Department of State Health
10 Services.

11 (3) "Premature infant" means an infant born before 39
12 weeks of gestation.

13 (4) "Task force" means the Task Force on Premature
14 Infants established under this section.

15 (b) The executive commissioner shall establish a task force
16 to assist the department and appropriate health and human services
17 agencies in developing recommendations for:

18 (1) lowering the incidence of births before 39 weeks
19 of gestation; and

20 (2) ensuring the proper care of premature infants
21 after they are discharged from the hospital.

22 (c) The executive commissioner shall determine the number
23 of members to serve on the task force. The task force must include:

24 (1) one or more neonatologists;

- 1 (2) a representative from the March of Dimes;
2 (3) representatives from parent organizations; and
3 (4) representatives from statewide hospital
4 associations.

5 (d) The executive commissioner shall designate a member of
6 the task force to serve as presiding officer. The members of the
7 task force shall elect any other necessary officers.

8 (e) The task force shall meet at the call of the executive
9 commissioner.

10 (f) A member of the task force serves at the will of the
11 executive commissioner.

12 (g) A member of the task force may not receive compensation
13 for serving on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for
14 travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting the
15 business of the task force as provided by the General
16 Appropriations Act.

17 (h) The task force shall investigate:

18 (1) rehospitalization of premature infants in this
19 state; and

20 (2) primary causes for births before 39 weeks of
21 gestation in this state.

22 (i) The task force shall develop recommendations to:

23 (1) lower the incidence of births before 39 weeks of
24 gestation in this state;

25 (2) promote continuity of care for premature infants;
26 and

27 (3) improve reporting and data collection on

1 nonmedically indicated cesarean sections and labor inductions
2 performed before 39 weeks of gestation.

3 (j) The task force shall develop:

4 (1) a standard discharge tool for use by hospitals to
5 reduce the rate of premature infant rehospitalization; and

6 (2) educational materials and planning tools,
7 including identification of community resources, for the family of
8 a premature infant who is discharged from a hospital.

9 (k) Not later than January 1, 2013, the task force shall
10 submit a report to the executive commissioner, the governor, the
11 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
12 and the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees on its
13 findings and recommendations required by this section.

14 (l) The task force is abolished and this Act expires August
15 31, 2013.

16 SECTION 2. The executive commissioner of the Health and
17 Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the Task Force
18 on Premature Infants, as created by this Act, as soon as practicable
19 after the effective date of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.