

1-1 By: Uresti S.B. No. 1154  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 4, 2011; March 16, 2011, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;  
1-4 April 7, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,  
1-5 Nays 0; April 7, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to a task force for the development of a strategy to reduce  
1-9 child abuse and neglect and improve child welfare.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding  
1-12 Subchapter H-1 to read as follows:

1-13 SUBCHAPTER H-1. TASK FORCE TO REDUCE CHILD ABUSE AND  
1-14 NEGLECT AND IMPROVE CHILD WELFARE

1-15 Sec. 264.721. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE. A task force is  
1-16 established under this subchapter to develop a strategy to reduce  
1-17 child abuse and neglect and improve child welfare.

1-18 Sec. 264.722. TASK FORCE. (a) The task force consists of  
1-19 nine members appointed as follows:

1-20 (1) five members appointed by the governor;

1-21 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

1-22 and

1-23 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house  
1-24 of representatives.

1-25 (b) Members of the task force must be individuals who:

1-26 (1) are actively involved in the prevention of child  
1-27 abuse and neglect and the improvement of child welfare; and

1-28 (2) represent a diversity of backgrounds.

1-29 (c) Appointments to the task force shall be made without  
1-30 regard to the race, color, disability, sex, religion, age, or  
1-31 national origin of the appointee.

1-32 (d) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for  
1-33 service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for  
1-34 travel expenses as provided by Chapter 660, Government Code, and  
1-35 the General Appropriations Act.

1-36 (e) The task force shall elect a presiding officer by a  
1-37 majority vote of the membership of the task force.

1-38 (f) The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding  
1-39 officer.

1-40 (g) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the  
1-41 task force.

1-42 Sec. 264.723. TASK FORCE DUTIES. (a) The task force shall  
1-43 identify:

1-44 (1) all existing programs in the state relating to  
1-45 reducing child abuse and neglect or improving child welfare; and

1-46 (2) the programs described by Subdivision (1) that  
1-47 receive state money.

1-48 (b) The task force shall establish a strategy for reducing  
1-49 child abuse and neglect and for improving child welfare in this  
1-50 state. In establishing that strategy, the task force shall:

1-51 (1) gather information concerning child safety, child  
1-52 abuse and neglect, and child welfare throughout the state;

1-53 (2) receive reports and testimony from individuals,  
1-54 state and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other  
1-55 public and private organizations;

1-56 (3) create goals for state policy that would improve  
1-57 child safety, prevent child abuse and neglect, and improve child  
1-58 welfare;

1-59 (4) review and revise the strategic plan to accomplish  
1-60 those goals submitted by a previous task force; and

1-61 (5) submit the revised strategic plan.

1-62 (c) The revised strategic plan submitted under Subsection  
1-63 (b) may include proposals for specific statutory changes, the  
1-64 creation of new programs, and methods to foster cooperation among

2-1 state agencies and between the state and local governments.

2-2 Sec. 264.724. SUPPORT AGENCY DUTIES. The department, the  
2-3 Department of State Health Services, the Texas Department of  
2-4 Criminal Justice, the Texas Youth Commission, the Texas Juvenile  
2-5 Probation Commission, The University of Texas System, and The Texas  
2-6 A&M University System shall:

2-7 (1) provide administrative support services to the  
2-8 task force;

2-9 (2) coordinate administrative responsibilities with  
2-10 the task force to avoid unnecessary duplication of duties;

2-11 (3) share equally the costs of the task force,  
2-12 including reimbursement for travel expenses, administrative  
2-13 expenses, and the costs of publishing the task force's strategic  
2-14 plan; and

2-15 (4) each designate a person to serve as the agency  
2-16 liaison with the task force.

2-17 Sec. 264.725. CONSULTATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES; PRIVATE  
2-18 FOUNDATIONS. (a) The task force shall consult with employees of  
2-19 the department, the Department of State Health Services, the Texas  
2-20 Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Youth Commission, the  
2-21 Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, The University of Texas  
2-22 System, and The Texas A&M University System as necessary to  
2-23 accomplish the task force's responsibilities under this  
2-24 subchapter.

2-25 (b) The task force shall cooperate as necessary with any  
2-26 other state agency.

2-27 (c) The task force may consult with private foundations that  
2-28 have made a substantial commitment to the prevention of child abuse  
2-29 in this state to accomplish the task force's responsibilities under  
2-30 this chapter.

2-31 Sec. 264.726. FUNDING; ACCOUNT. (a) The task force shall  
2-32 review the funding strategies for the task force and develop  
2-33 proposals for expanding the sources of funds available to finance  
2-34 the activities of the task force.

2-35 (b) The task force may accept gifts and grants from  
2-36 individuals or private or public organizations and accept federal  
2-37 and local funds to support the task force.

2-38 (c) The child abuse reduction task force account is an  
2-39 account in the general revenue fund. Money in the account may be  
2-40 appropriated only to the task force for the purposes of this  
2-41 subchapter. The child abuse reduction task force account is exempt  
2-42 from the application of Section 403.095, Government Code. The  
2-43 account consists of:

2-44 (1) gifts and grants to the task force;

2-45 (2) money received by the task force from the federal,  
2-46 state, or local government; and

2-47 (3) notwithstanding Section 404.071, Government Code,  
2-48 all interest attributable to money held in the account.

2-49 Sec. 264.727. SUBMISSION OF PLAN. Not later than December  
2-50 1, 2012, the task force shall submit the strategic plan required by  
2-51 Section 264.723 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker  
2-52 of the house of representatives.

2-53 Sec. 264.728. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
2-54 this subchapter expires September 1, 2013.

2-55 SECTION 2. The governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker  
2-56 of the house of representatives shall appoint the members of the  
2-57 task force as required by Section 264.722, Family Code, as added by  
2-58 this Act, not later than October 1, 2011.

2-59 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-60 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-61 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-62 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-63 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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