

By: Burkett, Alvarado, et al.

H.B. No. 1023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force to investigate and make recommendations regarding mental health workforce shortages.

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

SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SHORTAGE.

(a) Not later than October 1, 2013, the Health and Human Services Commission, or a health and human services agency designated by the commission, shall establish a task force to investigate and make recommendations regarding mental health workforce shortages in this state.

(b) The task force shall investigate the existence, severity, and causes of mental health workforce shortages in this state. The investigation must specifically identify:

(1) the types of providers for which shortages exist, including types such as licensed professionals, certified peer specialists, and direct care staff;

(2) the types of licensed professionals, specialists, or staff for which shortages exist;

(3) the locations or regions in this state in which shortages exist and in which extraordinary shortages exist;

(4) the effect the shortages have on the ability of persons with mental illness to receive services in this state and in those locations or regions identified under Subdivision (3) of this subsection; and

1 (5) the economic and societal effect the shortages
2 have in this state and in those locations or regions identified
3 under Subdivision (3) of this subsection.

4 SECTION 2. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Not later than
5 December 1, 2014, the Health and Human Services Commission, or the
6 health and human services agency designated by the commission under
7 Section 1 of this Act, shall submit a report to the governor, the
8 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
9 and the appropriate standing committees of the legislature that
10 includes:

- 11 (1) the results of the task force's investigation; and
12 (2) recommended means to alleviate identified mental
13 health workforce shortages.

14 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
15 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
16 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
17 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
18 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.