

1-1 By: Dukes (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 1144
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 18, 2015;
 1-3 May 18, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal
 1-4 Justice; May 22, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 1; May 22, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11		X		
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to establishing a task force to examine the adjudication,
 1-18 disposition, and registration of juvenile sex offenders.
 1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-20 SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR JUVENILES
 1-21 ADJUDICATED OF SEXUAL OFFENSES. (a) In this Act:
 1-22 (1) "Juvenile sex offender" means a person subject to
 1-23 the jurisdiction of a juvenile court for conduct that constitutes
 1-24 an offense for which registration as a sex offender is required
 1-25 under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.
 1-26 (2) "Task force" means the Task Force on Improving
 1-27 Outcomes for Juveniles Adjudicated of Sexual Offenses.
 1-28 (b) The Task Force on Improving Outcomes for Juveniles
 1-29 Adjudicated of Sexual Offenses is established. The purpose of the
 1-30 task force is to make policy recommendations to improve the
 1-31 outcomes for juvenile sex offenders after studying:
 1-32 (1) the adjudication and disposition processes and
 1-33 programs for juvenile sex offenders;
 1-34 (2) counseling, mental health, or other services
 1-35 provided by the state or local juvenile probation departments to
 1-36 juvenile sex offenders;
 1-37 (3) the sex offender registration process for
 1-38 juveniles; and
 1-39 (4) any other issue related to improving the outcomes
 1-40 for juvenile sex offenders.
 1-41 (c) The task force is composed of the following members:
 1-42 (1) the executive director of the Texas Juvenile
 1-43 Justice Department or the executive director's designee;
 1-44 (2) the commissioner of the Department of Family and
 1-45 Protective Services or the commissioner's designee;
 1-46 (3) one representative designated by the Crime Records
 1-47 Service of the Department of Public Safety who has experience with
 1-48 the department's sex offender registry;
 1-49 (4) one representative designated by the Council on
 1-50 Sex Offender Treatment;
 1-51 (5) one representative designated by Children's
 1-52 Advocacy Centers of Texas;
 1-53 (6) one representative designated by the Texas
 1-54 Association for the Protection of Children;
 1-55 (7) one representative designated by Texans Care for
 1-56 Children;
 1-57 (8) one private provider of juvenile sex offender
 1-58 treatment from a rural county and one private provider of juvenile
 1-59 sex offender treatment from an urban county, appointed by the
 1-60 governor;
 1-61 (9) one judge from a rural county and one judge from an

2-1 urban county, appointed by the governor;
 2-2 (10) one law enforcement official from a rural county
 2-3 and one law enforcement official from an urban county, appointed by
 2-4 the governor;
 2-5 (11) one prosecutor from a rural county and one
 2-6 prosecutor from an urban county, appointed by the governor;
 2-7 (12) one juvenile probation officer from a rural
 2-8 county and one juvenile probation officer from an urban county,
 2-9 appointed by the governor;
 2-10 (13) one juvenile public defender from a rural county
 2-11 and one juvenile public defender from an urban county, appointed by
 2-12 the governor; and
 2-13 (14) one academic researcher from an accredited
 2-14 university who specializes in juvenile justice, appointed by the
 2-15 governor.
 2-16 (d) The governor shall designate a member of the task force
 2-17 to serve as presiding officer.
 2-18 (e) The presiding officer may designate additional experts
 2-19 to serve as advisors to the task force.
 2-20 (f) A person designated to make an appointment of a member
 2-21 of the task force shall make the appointment not later than the 60th
 2-22 day after the effective date of this Act. The designated person
 2-23 shall fill a vacancy in the task force or a vacancy in the position
 2-24 of presiding officer of the task force by the appointment of another
 2-25 person with the same qualifications as the original appointee.
 2-26 (g) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of
 2-27 the task force on or before December 1, 2015. The task force shall
 2-28 meet at the times and places that the presiding officer determines
 2-29 are appropriate.
 2-30 (h) A member of the task force is not entitled to
 2-31 compensation but may receive reimbursement for the member's actual
 2-32 and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the task
 2-33 force and performing other official duties authorized by the
 2-34 presiding officer of the task force, if funding is available.
 2-35 (i) The task force may request meeting facilities, data,
 2-36 clerical assistance, and other assistance from any department,
 2-37 agency, institution, office, or political subdivision of this
 2-38 state.
 2-39 (j) The task force may consult with any relevant experts and
 2-40 stakeholders, including:
 2-41 (1) juvenile sex offenders;
 2-42 (2) family members of juvenile sex offenders;
 2-43 (3) mental health experts;
 2-44 (4) public school district administrators; and
 2-45 (5) higher education administrators.
 2-46 (k) State funds may not be appropriated for purposes of the
 2-47 task force. The task force may apply for, receive, and accept
 2-48 grants of funds or other contributions as appropriate to assist in
 2-49 the performance of its duties. The task force may contract for
 2-50 consultants or technical assistance.
 2-51 (l) The task force is not subject to Chapter 2110,
 2-52 Government Code.

2-53 SECTION 2. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. (a) The task force shall:
 2-54 (1) solicit and review information and hear testimony
 2-55 relevant to the purposes of the task force from individuals, state
 2-56 and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
 2-57 public and private organizations;
 2-58 (2) review the adjudication and disposition processes
 2-59 and programs for juvenile sex offenders, including:
 2-60 (A) the consistency in adjudication and
 2-61 disposition processes across the state;
 2-62 (B) the training provided to judges, law
 2-63 enforcement officers, parole and probation officers, and other
 2-64 juvenile service providers on the differences between juvenile and
 2-65 adult sex offenders regarding the potential for rehabilitation
 2-66 through treatment; and
 2-67 (C) training provided to judges, law enforcement
 2-68 officers, parole and probation officers, and other juvenile service
 2-69 providers regarding the most effective way to protect the community

3-1 by reducing recidivism rates among juvenile sex offenders;
3-2 (3) review juvenile sex offender registration,
3-3 including:
3-4 (A) the effectiveness of juvenile sex offender
3-5 registration in reducing recidivism rates;
3-6 (B) statistical information regarding juveniles
3-7 required to register as sex offenders;
3-8 (C) the impact of juvenile sex offender
3-9 registration on a juvenile, including a juvenile's ability to
3-10 access education, obtain housing, and gain employment; and
3-11 (D) the impact of labeling a juvenile as a
3-12 juvenile sex offender on the family of the juvenile;
3-13 (4) review counseling, mental health, or other
3-14 services provided to juvenile sex offenders, including:
3-15 (A) the effectiveness of the services in the
3-16 rehabilitation of juvenile sex offenders and the reduction of
3-17 recidivism rates; and
3-18 (B) the current shortage of juvenile sex offender
3-19 service providers; and
3-20 (5) review statistical information regarding the
3-21 frequency of juvenile sex offenders being victims of abuse or
3-22 neglect or witnesses to family violence.
3-23 (b) The task force shall adopt rules necessary to fulfill
3-24 the task force's duties under this Act.

3-25 SECTION 3. REPORT. (a) The task force shall prepare a
3-26 report that includes:
3-27 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;
3-28 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
3-29 force, including proposed policy recommendations related to:
3-30 (A) the provision of coordinated support
3-31 services to juvenile sex offenders; and
3-32 (B) the most effective strategy to reduce
3-33 recidivism rates and improve outcomes for juvenile sex offenders;
3-34 and
3-35 (3) any related proposals for legislation or other
3-36 matters the task force considers appropriate.
3-37 (b) Not later than December 1, 2016, the task force shall
3-38 deliver the report of the task force's findings and recommendations
3-39 to:
3-40 (1) the governor;
3-41 (2) the lieutenant governor;
3-42 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives;
3-43 (4) the standing committees of each house of the
3-44 legislature with primary jurisdiction over criminal justice
3-45 matters;
3-46 (5) the executive director of the Texas Department of
3-47 Criminal Justice;
3-48 (6) the executive director of the Texas Juvenile
3-49 Justice Department;
3-50 (7) each state agency and nonprofit organization
3-51 represented on the task force; and
3-52 (8) any other appropriate agency of this state.

3-53 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and this
3-54 Act expires September 1, 2017.

3-55 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
3-56 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
3-57 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
3-58 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
3-59 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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