

By: Raymond, Price, Naishtat

H.B. No. 1678

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the continuation and functions of the Governor's
3 Committee on People with Disabilities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 115.005, Human Resources Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 115.005. SUNSET PROVISION. The Governor's Committee
8 on People with Disabilities is subject to Chapter 325, Government
9 Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided
10 by that chapter, the committee is abolished and this chapter
11 expires September 1, 2027 [~~2015~~].

12 SECTION 2. Section 115.009, Human Resources Code, as
13 amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular
14 Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

15 Sec. 115.009. FUNCTIONS. The committee shall:

16 (1) serve as a central source of information and
17 education on the abilities, rights, problems, and needs of persons
18 with disabilities and, as necessary, issue reports;

19 (2) provide information to and advise the governor and
20 the governor's staff on matters relating to the full participation
21 of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life;

22 (3) before the end of each even-numbered year, submit
23 to the governor and to the legislature a report that includes[+]

24 [~~(A) the status of the state's compliance with~~

1 ~~federal and state laws pertaining to rights and opportunities for~~
2 ~~persons with disabilities and recommendations to achieve further~~
3 ~~compliance, if necessary;~~

4 ~~[(B) a long-range state plan for persons with~~
5 ~~disabilities and recommendations to implement that plan; and~~

6 ~~[(C)] any recommended changes in state laws~~
7 relating to persons with disabilities;

8 (4) serve as the state's liaison agency in working with
9 the Office of Disability [~~President's Committee on~~] Employment
10 Policy [~~of Persons with Disabilities~~] and other entities involved
11 in activities or concerns affecting persons with disabilities;

12 (5) develop and work with a statewide network of
13 volunteer community-level committees to promote dissemination of
14 information about and implementation of federal and state laws
15 addressing rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities;

16 (6) [~~evaluate the state's compliance with the~~
17 ~~Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et~~
18 ~~seq.) and other federal and state statutes relating to rights and~~
19 ~~opportunities for persons with disabilities;~~

20 ~~[(7)]~~ provide information and technical assistance to
21 public and private agencies and businesses to promote and
22 facilitate implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
23 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.) and other federal and state
24 statutes relating to rights and opportunities of persons with
25 disabilities;

26 (7) [~~(8) collect and evaluate data on employment of~~
27 ~~persons with disabilities by state agencies;~~

1 ~~(9)~~ work with legislative committees and with state
2 agencies on the development of laws and policies that affect
3 persons with disabilities;

4 (8) ~~(10)~~ promote the compilation and publication of
5 state laws relating to persons with disabilities; ~~and~~

6 (9) ~~(11)~~ issue awards and other forms of recognition
7 to persons and organizations making outstanding contributions to
8 the employment of persons with disabilities and to public awareness
9 of issues impacting persons with disabilities;

10 (10) identify each current long-range plan relating to
11 persons with disabilities in this state created by a state agency, a
12 committee of a state agency, or a nonprofit organization required
13 by federal law to produce such a plan, and publish the link to the
14 Internet website address for each long-range plan, if available, on
15 the Internet website of the Governor's Committee on People with
16 Disabilities; and

17 (11) review and analyze the long-range plans described
18 by Subdivision (10) to identify gaps in state laws and services for
19 persons with disabilities and make biennial recommendations in the
20 committee's report required under Subdivision (3) to address
21 identified gaps.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.