

By: González

H.B. No. 1773

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a task force to examine the
3 effectiveness of school counseling programs in public schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS.

6 (a) A task force is established under this section to examine the
7 effectiveness of school counseling programs on student performance
8 in public schools.

9 (b) The task force is composed of the following 50 members
10 appointed by the commissioner of education:

11 (1) 20 school counselors;

12 (2) 10 individuals who serve on the board of trustees
13 of a school district;

14 (3) 10 superintendents;

15 (4) four representatives of regional education
16 service centers who have experience with school counseling;

17 (5) one representative of the State Board of
18 Education;

19 (6) one representative of the Texas Education Agency;

20 (7) two representatives of professional counseling
21 associations; and

22 (8) two representatives of research organizations
23 that have conducted academic studies on school counseling.

24 (c) In making appointments to the task force, the

1 commissioner of education must include members from the counties
2 that comprise the Texas-Mexico border area.

3 (d) The commissioner of education shall appoint the members
4 of the task force not later than December 1, 2015. The commissioner
5 shall fill a vacancy in the task force by the appointment of another
6 person with the same qualifications as the original appointee.

7 (e) The representative of the Texas Education Agency shall
8 serve as the presiding officer of the task force.

9 (f) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of
10 the task force on or before January 1, 2016. The task force shall
11 meet at the times and places that the presiding officer determines
12 are appropriate.

13 (g) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
14 task force.

15 SECTION 2. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

16 (1) examine whether public schools are using school
17 counseling programs, including the national framework developed by
18 the American School Counselor Association;

19 (2) determine which school counseling programs
20 schools prefer to use; and

21 (3) conduct a statistical analysis, incorporating
22 information on student demographics, to determine the
23 effectiveness of school counseling programs and the impact on
24 student achievement and performance.

25 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2017, the
26 task force shall deliver a report to the commissioner of education
27 detailing the task force's findings and recommendations and the

1 results of the statistical analysis conducted by the task force.

2 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished, and
3 this Act expires, December 1, 2017.

4 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
5 1, 2015.