

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 72, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. TASK FORCE TO PROMOTE UNIFORMITY IN COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sec. 72.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Dating violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.0021, Family Code.

(2) "Family violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.004, Family Code.

(3) "Task force" means the task force established under this subchapter to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Sec. 72.102. TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP. (a) The task force consists of:

(1) one member from the office, appointed by the director;

(2) 16 members appointed by the presiding officer of

1 the task force as follows:

2 (A) one member from the bureau of identification
3 and records of the Department of Public Safety;

4 (B) one member from a statewide family violence
5 advocacy organization;

6 (C) one member from a statewide sexual assault
7 advocacy organization;

8 (D) one member who is a prosecuting attorney with
9 experience in obtaining protective orders in cases involving family
10 violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking;

11 (E) one member who is a magistrate with
12 experience in issuing orders for emergency protection under Article
13 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure;

14 (F) one member who is a judge or an associate
15 judge with experience in issuing protective orders in cases
16 involving family violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human
17 trafficking;

18 (G) one member from The University of Texas
19 School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic;

20 (H) one member who is from an organization that
21 receives federal funding under the legal assistance for victims
22 grant program and who has expertise in issues related to family
23 violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

24 (I) two members from a law enforcement agency,
25 including one member who is a constable;

26 (J) one member from the Texas Center for the
27 Judiciary;

1 (K) one member from the Texas Municipal Courts
2 Education Center;

3 (L) one member from the Texas Justice Court
4 Training Center;

5 (M) one member from the County and District
6 Clerks' Association of Texas;

7 (N) one member from the child support division of
8 the office of the attorney general; and

9 (O) one member from the Texas Education Agency;
10 and

11 (3) any other member whom the presiding officer
12 determines to be appropriate and who consents to serve on the task
13 force.

14 (b) The presiding officer of the task force is the member
15 who represents the office.

16 (c) Appointed members of the task force serve at the will of
17 the appointing authority. A vacancy on the task force must be
18 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

19 Sec. 72.103. MEETINGS; COMPENSATION. (a) The task force
20 shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.

21 (b) Members of the task force serve without compensation or
22 reimbursement for expenses.

23 Sec. 72.104. DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

24 (1) solicit and receive reports and testimony from
25 individuals, state and local agencies, community-based
26 organizations, and other public and private organizations,
27 including:

1 (A) survivors of family violence, sexual
2 assault, stalking, or human trafficking;

3 (B) law enforcement officials whose duties
4 include submitting information to the Texas Crime Information
5 Center;

6 (C) individuals with technical expertise in and
7 familiarity with the programming and maintenance of the database
8 maintained by the Texas Crime Information Center;

9 (D) individuals with technical expertise in and
10 familiarity with the office's database on family violence; and

11 (E) individuals with expertise in issues related
12 to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking;
13 and

14 (2) develop policy recommendations and best practices
15 guidelines for the uniform collection and reporting of information
16 relating to:

17 (A) family violence, sexual assault, stalking,
18 and human trafficking; and

19 (B) the implementation of dating violence
20 training and awareness education in public schools under Section
21 [37.0831](#), Education Code.

22 (b) In developing policy recommendations and best practices
23 guidelines under Subsection (a)(2), the task force shall examine
24 best practices regarding uniform data collection and reporting and
25 any studies or reports that the task force considers relevant.

26 Sec. 72.105. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2016, the
27 task force shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant

1 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
2 appropriate standing committees of the legislature a report that
3 includes:

4 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;
5 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
6 force, including the policy recommendations and best practices
7 guidelines developed by the task force under Section 72.104(a)(2);
8 and

9 (3) any other matter that the task force considers
10 appropriate.

11 Sec. 72.106. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The office shall
12 provide reasonably necessary administrative and technical support
13 for the activities of the task force.

14 Sec. 72.107. ASSISTANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS. The office
15 shall seek the assistance of the task force before the office makes
16 any recommendation as a result of the work done by the task force.

17 Sec. 72.108. EXPIRATION DATE. The task force is abolished
18 and this subchapter expires on September 1, 2017.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the appropriate persons shall appoint the members of
21 the task force created by Subchapter F, Chapter 72, Government
22 Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2455 was passed by the House on May 5, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2455 on May 21, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2455 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor