

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 2550

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment and duties of a task force to study and make recommendations on family support and parent education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. TASK FORCE ON FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 531.431. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force" means the task force on family support and parent education programs established under Section 531.432.

Sec. 531.432. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE. The task force on family support and parent education programs is established to advise the executive commissioner regarding:

(1) the availability and quality of family support and parent education programs in this state;

(2) expanding access in this state to family support and parent education programs of varying degrees of intensity;

(3) using existing administrative and program data to identify and evaluate gaps in family support and parent education program curriculum and informing providers of family support and parent education programs of those gaps and of underserved geographic areas and populations;

1           (4) developing policy recommendations for family  
2 support and parent education programs;

3           (5) determining uniform desired outcomes for family  
4 support and parent education programs and establishing  
5 accountability standards relating to those outcomes; and

6           (6) developing comprehensive statewide best practice  
7 guidelines for family support and parent education programs.

8           Sec. 531.433. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. The task force is  
9 composed of 17 members appointed by the executive commissioner as  
10 follows:

11           (1) one representative of the commission;

12           (2) one representative of a school readiness  
13 organization;

14           (3) one representative of a child abuse and neglect  
15 prevention organization;

16           (4) one representative of a parent education  
17 organization;

18           (5) one representative of a mental health  
19 organization;

20           (6) one representative of The University of Texas  
21 School of Public Health;

22           (7) one representative of the prevention and early  
23 intervention program of the Department of Family and Protective  
24 Services;

25           (8) one representative of the nurse-family  
26 partnership program of the commission;

27           (9) one university-based research professional who

1 has expertise in evaluating family support and parent education  
2 program outcomes;

3 (10) one provider of evidence-based family support and  
4 parent education programs;

5 (11) one representative from the Texas Education  
6 Agency;

7 (12) one representative of a faith-based  
8 organization;

9 (13) one medical professional with experience serving  
10 families;

11 (14) one representative from the Texas State Advisory  
12 Council on Early Childhood Education and Care;

13 (15) one representative of the business sector;

14 (16) one representative of an organization that  
15 invests in family support and parent education programs; and

16 (17) one representative of the probation and community  
17 services division of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

18 Sec. 531.434. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive  
19 commissioner shall appoint a member of the task force to serve as  
20 presiding officer.

21 Sec. 531.435. VACANCY. A vacancy on the task force shall be  
22 filled by appointment in the same manner as the original  
23 appointment.

24 Sec. 531.436. MEETINGS. The task force shall meet at least  
25 quarterly at the call of the presiding officer. The task force  
26 shall meet at other times as determined by the presiding officer.

27 Sec. 531.437. DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

1           (1) receive reports and testimony from individuals,  
2 state and local governmental agencies, community-based  
3 organizations, and other public and private organizations  
4 regarding family support and parent education programs;

5           (2) identify family support and parent education  
6 programs that are being implemented in this state and describe for  
7 each program:

8                   (A) the scope of the program, both geographically  
9 and in terms of content;

10                   (B) whether the program is evidence-based;

11                   (C) the effectiveness of the program; and

12                   (D) the manner in which the program's  
13 effectiveness and outcomes are monitored;

14           (3) develop a comprehensive strategy for increasing  
15 access by parents in this state to evidence-based family support  
16 and parent education programs of varying degrees of intensity;

17           (4) assess this state's compliance with:

18                   (A) any applicable requirements that a family  
19 support and parent education program in which a parent participates  
20 under a court order or at the request of the child protective  
21 services division of the Department of Family and Protective  
22 Services be evidence-based; and

23                   (B) state funding allocation requirements for  
24 evidence-based family support and parent education programs; and

25           (5) develop policy and other recommendations for:

26                   (A) expanding evidence-based family support and  
27 parent education programs; and

1                   (B) establishing comprehensive statewide best  
2 practice guidelines for family support and parent education  
3 programs.

4           (b) In developing recommendations under Subsection (a)(5),  
5 the task force shall include recommendations regarding:

6                   (1) family support and parent education program  
7 funding in this state;

8                   (2) methods for using existing administrative and  
9 program data to:

10                   (A) identify populations in need of additional  
11 services;

12                   (B) identify long-term measures of program  
13 effectiveness; and

14                   (C) assess the performance of programs and  
15 relevant state agencies; and

16                   (3) appropriate programs for specific populations,  
17 including:

18                           (A) ethnic and racial minority populations; and

19                           (B) families exhibiting both low and high levels  
20 of risk factors, which include a preterm birth, poverty, having low  
21 parent educational attainment, having one or more teenage parents,  
22 having poor maternal health, and having parent unemployment or  
23 underemployment.

24           Sec. 531.438. REPORT. (a) The task force shall prepare a  
25 report that includes:

26                   (1) a description of the activities of the task force;

27                   (2) the findings and recommendations of the task

1 force, including recommendations described by Section  
2 531.437(a)(5); and

3 (3) proposed legislation or recommendations or  
4 information on any other relevant matter that the task force  
5 considers appropriate.

6 (b) Not later than December 1, 2016, the task force shall  
7 submit the report prepared under this section to the executive  
8 commissioner, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of  
9 the house of representatives, and the presiding officers of the  
10 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives  
11 having primary jurisdiction over issues relating to family support  
12 and parent education.

13 Sec. 531.439. RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSION. (a) The  
14 commission shall provide reasonably necessary administrative and  
15 technical support to the task force.

16 (b) The executive commissioner shall consider implementing  
17 the recommendations of the task force. If the executive  
18 commissioner proposes to adopt or amend a rule as a result of the  
19 recommendations of the task force, the executive commissioner shall  
20 seek input from the task force in developing the new or amended  
21 rule.

22 Sec. 531.440. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. Members of the  
23 task force serve without compensation and may not be reimbursed for  
24 travel or other expenses incurred while conducting the business of  
25 the task force.

26 Sec. 531.441. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110  
27 does not apply to the task force.

1       Sec. 531.442. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The commission  
2 may accept on behalf of the task force a gift, grant, or donation  
3 from any source to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

4       Sec. 531.443. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
5 this subchapter expires September 1, 2017.

6       SECTION 2. The executive commissioner of the Health and  
7 Human Services Commission shall appoint the members of the task  
8 force on family support and parent education programs in accordance  
9 with Subchapter M, Chapter 531, Government Code, as added by this  
10 Act, as soon as possible after the effective date of this Act.

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