

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 16 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 Department of State Health Services;

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; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 (1) receive reports and testimony from individuals,
27 state and local governmental agencies, community-based

1 organizations, and other public and private organizations
2 regarding family support and parent education programs;

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

6 (A) the scope of the program, both geographically
7 and in terms of content;

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

9 (C) the effectiveness of the program; and

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

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

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

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

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

23 (5) develop policy and other recommendations for:

24 (A) expanding evidence-based family support and
25 parent education programs; and

26 (B) establishing comprehensive statewide best
27 practice guidelines for family support and parent education

1 programs.

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

4 (1) family support and parent education program
5 funding in this state;

6 (2) methods for using existing administrative and
7 program data to:

8 (A) identify populations in need of additional
9 services;

10 (B) identify long-term measures of program
11 effectiveness; and

12 (C) assess the performance of programs and
13 relevant state agencies; and

14 (3) appropriate programs for specific populations,
15 including:

16 (A) ethnic and racial minority populations; and

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

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

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

25 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
26 force, including recommendations described by Section
27 531.437(a)(5); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 Sec. 531.442. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The commission
27 may accept on behalf of the task force a gift, grant, or donation

1 from any source to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

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

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

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