

By: Howard

H.B. No. 2783

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the humanitarian relief reimbursement task force.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter R to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER R. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF REIMBURSEMENT TASK FORCE

Sec. 403.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Task force" means the humanitarian relief reimbursement task force.

(2) "Humanitarian relief" includes services related to public education, health and human services, and child protective services provided to a refugee child by:

(A) a state agency or entity;

(B) local governments;

(C) nonprofit and community-based organizations;

and

(D) faith-based organizations.

(3) "Refugee child" means a child who has been released into communities in this state by:

(A) the Office of Refugee Resettlement; or

(B) United States Customs and Border Protection or United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, pending an immigration hearing.

1       Sec. 403.502. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSES. The humanitarian  
2 relief reimbursement task force is established to:

3           (1) determine public and private costs incurred in  
4 providing humanitarian relief, including costs incurred by  
5 providing public education, health and human services, and child  
6 protective services, to refugee children; and

7           (2) produce a report outlining public and private  
8 costs incurred in providing humanitarian relief to refugee children  
9 and distribute that report to state and federal officials.

10       Sec. 403.503. COMPOSITION. The task force is composed of  
11 eight members to be appointed by the comptroller as follows:

12           (1) one representative of a faith-based organization  
13 providing direct humanitarian relief to refugee children in this  
14 state;

15           (2) one representative of a community-based  
16 organization providing direct humanitarian relief to refugee  
17 children in this state;

18           (3) one member who is a superintendent of a school  
19 district providing direct humanitarian relief to refugee children;

20           (4) one representative of a law enforcement agency;

21           (5) one representative of the Texas Education Agency;

22           (6) one representative of the Health and Human  
23 Services Commission;

24           (7) one representative of the comptroller; and

25           (8) one representative of a foundation that invests in  
26 humanitarian relief efforts for refugee children in this state.

27       Sec. 403.504. MEETINGS. (a) The task force shall meet in

person at least three times each year and may hold additional meetings in person or by conference call if necessary.

(b) Section 551.125 applies to a meeting held by conference call under this section, except that Section 551.125(b) does not apply.

Sec. 403.505. COMPENSATION. A member of the task force may not receive compensation for service on the task force.

Sec. 403.506. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF REIMBURSEMENT REPORT.

(a) Using funds available to the task force under Section 403.507, the task force shall partner with an independent third party to produce a report outlining the public and private costs incurred in providing humanitarian relief to refugee children that are not reimbursed by the federal government.

(b) The task force shall submit the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and comptroller. The task force shall also submit the report to the president of the United States, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the secretary of the United States Department of Education, and each member of the Texas delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

Sec. 403.507. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The comptroller may accept on behalf of the task force a gift, grant, or donation from any source to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the comptroller is not required to convene the task force to produce the report if sufficient private gifts, grants, or

1 donations are not available.

2 Sec. 403.508. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
3 this subchapter expires December 31, 2016.

4 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2015, the  
5 comptroller of public accounts shall, subject to Section 403.507,  
6 Government Code, as added by this Act, convene the task force  
7 required under Subchapter R, Chapter 403, Government Code, as added  
8 by this Act.

9 (b) If the comptroller of public accounts convenes the task  
10 force under Subsection (a) of this section, not later than October  
11 1, 2016, the task force shall submit the report required under  
12 Subchapter R, Chapter 403, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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