

By: Klick

H.B. No. 2950

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2950:

By: Crownover

C.S.H.B. No. 2950

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, as amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. TASK FORCE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Sec. 81.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force" means the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

Sec. 81.402. TASK FORCE; DUTIES. (a) The Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response is created as an advisory board to the department.

(b) The task force shall:

(1) provide expert, evidence-based assessments, protocols, and recommendations related to state responses to infectious diseases, including Ebola, and a strategic emergency management plan for state and local levels of government;

(2) develop a comprehensive plan to ensure that Texas is prepared for the potential of widespread outbreak of infectious diseases, such as the Ebola virus, and can provide rapid response that effectively protects the safety and well-being of citizens of

1 this state;

2 (3) evaluate the supplies and resources available to
3 address an infectious disease outbreak; and

4 (4) serve as a reliable and transparent source of
5 information and education for Texas leadership and citizens.

6 (c) In developing the plan described by Subsection (b)(2),
7 the task force shall:

8 (1) use the significant expertise of medical
9 professionals in Texas and other states;

10 (2) collaborate with local government officials and
11 local health officials;

12 (3) use, as practicable, the Texas Emergency
13 Preparedness Plan and structure;

14 (4) identify various responses necessary in the event
15 of an epidemic of infectious disease;

16 (5) establish a command and control structure that
17 will ensure effective preparations and response if the governor
18 takes emergency action under Chapter 418, Government Code, or other
19 law; and

20 (6) coordinate with appropriate entities to ensure
21 public awareness and education regarding any pandemic threat.

22 Sec. 81.403. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERMS. (a) The
23 commissioner may appoint members of the task force as necessary,
24 including members from relevant state agencies, members with
25 expertise in infectious diseases and other issues involved in the
26 prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and members from
27 institutions of higher education in this state. The commissioner

1 shall appoint to the task force:

2 (1) at least one member who is a representative of a
3 local health authority serving a rural area;

4 (2) at least one member who is a representative of a
5 local health authority serving an urban area;

6 (3) at least one member who is a licensed physician;

7 (4) at least one member who is a licensed nurse;

8 (5) at least one member who is emergency medical
9 services personnel, as defined by Section 773.003; and

10 (6) at least one member representing a hospital.

11 (b) The commissioner shall appoint a director of the task
12 force from among the members of the task force.

13 (c) The commissioner may fill any vacancy that occurs on the
14 task force and may appoint additional members as needed.

15 (d) Members of the task force serve at the pleasure of the
16 commissioner.

17 (e) A state or local employee appointed to the task force
18 shall perform any duties required by the task force in addition to
19 the regular duties of the employee.

20 Sec. 81.404. REPORTS. (a) The task force shall report to
21 the department, governor, legislature, Texas Medical Board, and any
22 relevant medical associations as often as necessary to make
23 recommendations for updating protocols for addressing infectious
24 diseases.

25 (b) The task force shall make written reports on its
26 findings and recommendations, including legislative
27 recommendations, to the department, governor, and legislature on

1 December 1 of each even-numbered year.

2 Sec. 81.405. MEETINGS. (a) The task force shall meet at
3 times and locations as determined by the director of the task force.

4 (b) The task force may meet telephonically in accordance
5 with Section 551.125(b)(3), Government Code.

6 (c) The task force may hold public hearings to gather
7 information. The task force shall endeavor to meet in various parts
8 of the state to encourage local input.

9 (d) Notwithstanding Section 551.144, Government Code, or
10 any other law, the task force may hold a closed meeting to discuss
11 matters that are confidential by state or federal law or to ensure
12 public security or law enforcement needs. A closed meeting held as
13 provided by this subsection must be held as otherwise provided by
14 Chapter 551, Government Code.

15 Sec. 81.406. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. State agencies with
16 members on the task force shall provide administrative support for
17 the task force.

18 Sec. 81.407. REIMBURSEMENT. Task force members serve
19 without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement for
20 travel expenses.

21 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
22 of this Act, the commissioner of state health services shall make
23 appointments to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness
24 and Response required under Subchapter J, Chapter 81, Health and
25 Safety Code, as added by this Act.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.