

1-1 By: Klick, et al. H.B. No. 2950
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Taylor of Collin)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2015;
 1-4 May 14, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
 1-5 and Human Services; May 22, 2015, reported adversely, with
 1-6 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9,
 1-7 Nays 0; May 22, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9				
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2950 By: Taylor of Collin

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and
 1-23 Response.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, as amended by
 1-26 S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015,
 1-27 is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

1-28 SUBCHAPTER J. TASK FORCE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND
 1-29 RESPONSE

1-30 Sec. 81.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force"
 1-31 means the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and
 1-32 Response.

1-33 Sec. 81.402. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS. The legislature finds
 1-34 that:

1-35 (1) infectious diseases are responsible for more
 1-36 deaths worldwide than any other single cause;

1-37 (2) the State of Texas has a responsibility to
 1-38 safeguard and protect the health and well-being of its citizens
 1-39 from the spread of infectious diseases;

1-40 (3) on September 30, 2014, the first case of Ebola
 1-41 diagnosed in the United States occurred in Dallas, Texas;

1-42 (4) addressing infectious diseases requires the
 1-43 coordination and cooperation of multiple governmental entities at
 1-44 the local, state, and federal levels;

1-45 (5) public health and medical preparedness and
 1-46 response guidelines are crucial to protect the safety and welfare
 1-47 of our citizens; and

1-48 (6) Texas has nationally recognized infectious
 1-49 disease experts and other highly trained professionals across the
 1-50 state with the experience needed to minimize any potential risk to
 1-51 the people of Texas.

1-52 Sec. 81.403. TASK FORCE; DUTIES. (a) The Task Force on
 1-53 Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response is created as an
 1-54 advisory panel to the governor.

1-55 (b) The task force shall:

1-56 (1) provide expert, evidence-based assessments,
 1-57 protocols, and recommendations related to state responses to
 1-58 infectious diseases, including Ebola; and

1-59 (2) serve as a reliable and transparent source of
 1-60 information and education for Texas leadership and citizens.

2-1 Sec. 81.404. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERMS. (a) The
2-2 governor may appoint members of the task force as necessary,
2-3 including members from relevant state agencies, members with
2-4 expertise in infectious diseases and other issues involved in the
2-5 prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and members from
2-6 institutions of higher education in this state. The governor shall
2-7 appoint to the task force:

2-8 (1) at least one member who is a representative of a
2-9 local health authority serving a rural area;

2-10 (2) at least one member who is a representative of a
2-11 local health authority serving an urban area;

2-12 (3) at least one member who is a licensed nurse; and

2-13 (4) at least one member who is emergency medical
2-14 services personnel, as defined by Section 773.003.

2-15 (b) The governor shall appoint a director of the task force
2-16 from among the members of the task force.

2-17 (c) The governor may fill any vacancy that occurs on the
2-18 task force and may appoint additional members as needed.

2-19 (d) Members of the task force serve at the pleasure of the
2-20 governor.

2-21 (e) A state or local employee appointed to the task force
2-22 shall perform any duties required by the task force in addition to
2-23 the regular duties of the employee.

2-24 Sec. 81.405. REPORTS. The task force may make written
2-25 reports on its findings and recommendations, including legislative
2-26 recommendations, to the governor and legislature.

2-27 Sec. 81.406. MEETINGS. (a) The task force shall meet at
2-28 times and locations as determined by the director of the task force.

2-29 (b) The task force may meet telephonically in accordance
2-30 with Section 551.125(b)(3), Government Code.

2-31 (c) The task force may hold public hearings to gather
2-32 information. The task force shall endeavor to meet in various parts
2-33 of the state to encourage local input.

2-34 (d) Notwithstanding Section 551.144, Government Code, or
2-35 any other law, the task force may hold a closed meeting to discuss
2-36 matters that are confidential by state or federal law or to ensure
2-37 public security or law enforcement needs. A closed meeting held as
2-38 provided by this subsection must be held as otherwise provided by
2-39 Chapter 551, Government Code.

2-40 Sec. 81.407. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. State agencies with
2-41 members on the task force shall provide administrative support for
2-42 the task force.

2-43 Sec. 81.408. REIMBURSEMENT. Task force members serve
2-44 without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement for
2-45 travel expenses.

2-46 SECTION 2. (a) On the effective date of this Act, a member
2-47 serving on the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and
2-48 Response created by executive order of the governor continues to
2-49 serve on the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and
2-50 Response under Subchapter J, Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, as
2-51 added by this Act.

2-52 (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
2-53 Act, the governor shall make any appointments to the Task Force on
2-54 Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response required under
2-55 Subchapter J, Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, as added by this
2-56 Act.

2-57 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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