

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 636

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force to evaluate recreational use of rivers.

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

SECTION 1. RECREATIONAL RIVER USE TASK FORCE. (a) In this Act, "task force" means the Recreational River Use Task Force established under this section.

(b) The Recreational River Use Task Force is established for the purposes of:

(1) assessing the effects of recreational use of rivers on:

(A) state and local economies;

(B) environmental health; and

(C) water quality; and

(2) evaluating:

(A) the safety of recreational users of rivers;

(B) the quality of the recreational experience of river users; and

(C) the public policy implications of increased recreational use of rivers.

(c) The task force shall focus its efforts on areas of heavy recreational use of rivers.

(d) The task force is composed of the following 11 members:

(1) one representative of the Economic Development and

1 Tourism Division of the governor's office, appointed by the
2 governor;

3 (2) one representative of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage
4 Commission's Education and Prevention Division, appointed by the
5 governor;

6 (3) one representative of a river authority, appointed
7 by the lieutenant governor;

8 (4) one representative of an entity that is
9 distinguished by its efforts in water resource protection,
10 appointed by the lieutenant governor;

11 (5) one elected official of a county in which
12 recreational use of a river is high, appointed by the lieutenant
13 governor;

14 (6) one representative of a river recreation business,
15 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

16 (7) one owner of residential riverfront property,
17 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

18 (8) one elected official of a municipality in which
19 recreational use of a river is high, appointed by the speaker of the
20 house of representatives;

21 (9) the presiding officer of the Texas Commission on
22 Environmental Quality, or the officer's designee;

23 (10) the presiding officer of the Parks and Wildlife
24 Commission, or the officer's designee; and

25 (11) the director of the Texas State University
26 Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

27 (e) The members of the task force shall elect a presiding

1 officer.

2 (f) The Parks and Wildlife Department shall provide staff
3 support to the task force.

4 (g) The task force shall appoint a scientific advisory
5 committee to serve as impartial scientific advisors for the task
6 force. The director of the Texas State University Meadows Center
7 for Water and the Environment shall serve as the presiding officer
8 of the scientific advisory committee.

9 (h) The task force shall hold public hearings to achieve the
10 purposes described by Subsection (b).

11 (i) A member of the task force or the scientific advisory
12 committee is not entitled to receive compensation for service on
13 the task force or committee but is entitled to reimbursement of the
14 travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting the
15 business of the task force or committee.

16 (j) The task force may accept gifts and grants from any
17 source to be used to carry out a function of the task force or the
18 scientific advisory committee.

19 SECTION 2. FINAL REPORT. Not later than November 1, 2016,
20 the task force shall submit a final report to the governor, the
21 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
22 the authors and sponsors of the Act creating the task force, and the
23 members of the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate
24 Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development. The report
25 shall include a summary and analysis of:

26 (1) hearings and studies conducted by the task force;

27 (2) legislation proposed by the task force; and

1 (3) other findings and recommendations made by the
2 task force.

3 SECTION 3. APPOINTMENTS. Not later than December 1, 2015,
4 the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house
5 of representatives shall make the appointments to the task force as
6 described by Section 1(d) of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and this
8 Act expires August 31, 2017.

9 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
10 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
11 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
12 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
13 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.