

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 944

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 72, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. TASK FORCE TO PROMOTE UNIFORMITY IN COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION ON FAMILY VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Sec. 72.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Family violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.004, Family Code.

(2) "Task force" means the task force established under this subchapter to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Sec. 72.102. TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP. (a) The task force consists of:

(1) one member from the office, appointed by the director;

(2) 15 members appointed by the presiding officer of the task force as follows:

(A) one member from the bureau of identification

- 1 and records of the Department of Public Safety;  
2 (B) one member from a statewide family violence  
3 advocacy organization;  
4 (C) one member from a statewide sexual assault  
5 advocacy organization;  
6 (D) one member who is a prosecuting attorney with  
7 experience in obtaining protective orders in cases involving family  
8 violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking;  
9 (E) one member who is a magistrate with  
10 experience in issuing orders for emergency protection under Article  
11 [17.292](#), Code of Criminal Procedure;  
12 (F) one member who is a judge or an associate  
13 judge with experience in issuing protective orders in cases  
14 involving family violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human  
15 trafficking;  
16 (G) one member from The University of Texas  
17 School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic;  
18 (H) one member who is from an organization that  
19 receives federal funding under the legal assistance for victims  
20 grant program and who has expertise in issues related to family  
21 violence, sexual assault, or stalking;  
22 (I) two members from a law enforcement agency,  
23 including one member who is a constable;  
24 (J) one member from the Texas Center for the  
25 Judiciary;  
26 (K) one member from the Texas Municipal Courts  
27 Education Center;

1                   (L) one member from the Texas Justice Court  
2 Training Center;

3                   (M) one member from the County and District  
4 Clerks' Association of Texas; and

5                   (N) one member from the child support division of  
6 the office of the attorney general; and

7                   (3) any other member whom the presiding officer  
8 determines to be appropriate and who consents to serve on the task  
9 force.

10                  (b) The presiding officer of the task force is the member  
11 who represents the office.

12                  (c) Appointed members of the task force serve at the will of  
13 the appointing authority. A vacancy on the task force must be  
14 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

15                  Sec. 72.103. MEETINGS; COMPENSATION. (a) The task force  
16 shall meet at the call of the presiding officer.

17                  (b) Members of the task force serve without compensation or  
18 reimbursement for expenses.

19                  Sec. 72.104. DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

20                   (1) solicit and receive reports and testimony from  
21 individuals, state and local agencies, community-based  
22 organizations, and other public and private organizations,  
23 including:

24                   (A) survivors of family violence, sexual  
25 assault, stalking, or human trafficking;

26                   (B) law enforcement officials whose duties  
27 include submitting information to the Texas Crime Information

1 Center;

2 (C) individuals with technical expertise in and  
3 familiarity with the programming and maintenance of the database  
4 maintained by the Texas Crime Information Center;

5 (D) individuals with technical expertise in and  
6 familiarity with the office's database on family violence; and

7 (E) individuals with expertise in issues related  
8 to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking;  
9 and

10 (2) develop policy recommendations and best practices  
11 guidelines for the uniform collection and reporting of information  
12 relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human  
13 trafficking.

14 (b) In developing policy recommendations and best practices  
15 guidelines under Subsection (a)(2), the task force shall examine:

16 (1) the findings and recommendations of the "Best  
17 Practices for Lawyers Representing Survivors of Domestic Violence,  
18 Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Trafficking in the State of Texas"  
19 report commissioned by the State Bar of Texas Legal Services  
20 Support Division's Family Law Task Force;

21 (2) best practices regarding uniform data collection  
22 and reporting; and

23 (3) any other studies and reports that the task force  
24 considers relevant.

25 Sec. 72.105. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2016, the  
26 task force shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant  
27 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the

1 appropriate standing committees of the legislature a report that  
2 includes:

- 3 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;  
4 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task  
5 force, including the policy recommendations and best practices  
6 guidelines developed by the task force under Section 72.104(a)(2);  
7 and  
8 (3) any other matter that the task force considers  
9 appropriate.

10 Sec. 72.106. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The office shall  
11 provide reasonably necessary administrative and technical support  
12 for the activities of the task force.

13 Sec. 72.107. ASSISTANCE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS. The office  
14 shall seek the assistance of the task force before the office makes  
15 any recommendation as a result of the work done by the task force.

16 Sec. 72.108. EXPIRATION DATE. The task force is abolished  
17 and this subchapter expires on September 1, 2017.

18 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
19 of this Act, the appropriate persons shall appoint the members of  
20 the task force created by Subchapter F, Chapter 72, Government  
21 Code, as added by this Act.

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