

House Bill 2950
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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.

No equivalent provision.

Sec. 81.402. TASK FORCE; DUTIES. (a) The Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response is created as

SENATE VERSION (IE)

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. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 81.403. TASK FORCE; DUTIES. (a) The Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response is created as

CONFERENCE

House Bill 2950
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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 this state;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 81.403. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERMS. (a)

SENATE VERSION (IE)

an advisory panel to the governor.

(b) The task force shall:

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

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

Sec. 81.404. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS; TERMS. (a)

CONFERENCE

House Bill 2950
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

The commissioner may appoint members of the task force as necessary, including members from relevant state agencies, members with expertise in infectious diseases and other issues involved in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and members from institutions of higher education in this state. The commissioner shall appoint to the task force:

- (1) at least one member who is a representative of a local health authority serving a rural area;
- (2) at least one member who is a representative of a local health authority serving an urban area;
- (3) at least one member who is a licensed physician;
- (4) at least one member who is a licensed nurse;
- (5) at least one member who is emergency medical services personnel, as defined by Section 773.003; and
- (6) at least one member representing a hospital.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 81.404. REPORTS. (a) The task force shall report to the department, governor, legislature, Texas Medical Board, and any relevant medical associations as often as necessary to

SENATE VERSION (IE)

The governor may appoint members of the task force as necessary, including members from relevant state agencies, members with expertise in infectious diseases and other issues involved in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and members from institutions of higher education in this state. The governor shall appoint to the task force:

- (1) at least one member who is a representative of a local health authority serving a rural area;
- (2) at least one member who is a representative of a local health authority serving an urban area;
- (3) at least one member who is a licensed nurse; and
- (4) at least one member who is emergency medical services personnel, as defined by Section 773.003.

() at least one member who is a county judge of a county with a population of less than 100,000;

() at least one member who is a county judge of a county with a population of 100,000 or more; [FA1(1)]

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

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

(d) Members of the task force serve at the pleasure of the governor.

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

Sec. 81.405. REPORTS.

CONFERENCE

House Bill 2950
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

make recommendations for updating protocols for addressing infectious diseases.

(b) The task force shall make written reports on its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, to the department, governor, and legislature on December 1 of each even-numbered year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 81.408. INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FACILITIES AT HEALTH CARE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS. (a) If the task force adopts a comprehensive plan under Section 81.402, the commission may enter into contracts or agreements to assist in the establishment of infectious disease emergency preparedness

SENATE VERSION (IE)

The task force may make written reports on its findings and recommendations, including legislative recommendations, to the governor and legislature.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 81.407. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. State agencies with members on the task force shall provide administrative support for the task force.

Sec. 81.408. REIMBURSEMENT. Task force members serve without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses.

Sec. 81.409. INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FACILITIES AT HEALTH CARE-RELATED INSTITUTIONS. (a) The commission may enter into contracts or agreements to assist in the establishment of infectious disease emergency preparedness facilities at health care-related institutions in this state.

CONFERENCE

House Bill 2950
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

facilities at health care-related institutions in this state, consistent with the comprehensive plan, if the task force finds that the contracts or agreements are necessary to implement the comprehensive plan. The contracts or agreements may provide for payment by the commission to develop and equip infectious disease emergency preparedness facilities, consistent with the comprehensive plan, at health care-related institutions in this state, as well as for materials, equipment, services, or other items the commission considers necessary to implement this section.

(b) This section expires September 1, 2017.

SECTION 2.

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

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

SENATE VERSION (IE)

The contracts or agreements may provide for payment by the commission to develop and equip infectious disease emergency preparedness facilities at health care-related institutions in this state, as well as for materials, equipment, services, or other items the commission considers necessary to implement this section.

(b) This section expires September 1, 2017. [FA1(2)]

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

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

SECTION __. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015. [FA1(3)]

CONFERENCE

House Bill 2950
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE