

By: White, et al.

H.B. No. 1522

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a task force to coordinate and make recommendations on parent engagement and education programs provided by state agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L-1. TASK FORCE ON PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 531.431. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force" means the task force on parent engagement and education programs established under Section 531.432.

Sec. 531.432. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE. The task force on parent engagement and education programs is established to:

(1) enhance coordination of parent engagement and evidence-based parent education programs across state agencies;
and

(2) develop comprehensive, statewide best practices for engaging parents as their children's first and best teachers.

Sec. 531.433. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. The task force is composed of nine members as follows:

(1) the executive commissioner;
(2) the commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services;

1 (3) the executive director of the Texas Workforce
2 Commission;

3 (4) the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency;

4 (5) the executive director of the Texas Department of
5 Criminal Justice;

6 (6) the executive director of the Texas Juvenile
7 Justice Department;

8 (7) one representative of a county juvenile board or
9 juvenile probation department appointed by the presiding officer of
10 the task force;

11 (8) one representative of a faith-based organization
12 appointed by the presiding officer of the task force; and

13 (9) one person appointed by the presiding officer of
14 the task force who has experienced challenges meant to be addressed
15 by a parent engagement or education program.

16 Sec. 531.434. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive
17 commissioner shall serve as presiding officer.

18 Sec. 531.435. VACANCY. A vacancy for an appointed member of
19 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
20 appointment.

21 Sec. 531.436. MEETINGS. The task force shall meet at least
22 quarterly at the call of the presiding officer. The task force
23 shall meet at other times as determined by the presiding officer.

24 Sec. 531.437. DUTIES. The task force shall:

25 (1) receive reports and testimony from individuals,
26 state and local governmental agencies, community-based
27 organizations, and other public and private organizations

1 regarding parent engagement and evidence-based parent education
2 programs;

3 (2) identify parent engagement and evidence-based
4 parent education programs that are being implemented in this state
5 and describe opportunities for improved coordination among those
6 programs to:

7 (A) maximize the programs' effectiveness and
8 funding; and

9 (B) align program outcomes; and

10 (3) develop policy and other recommendations for:

11 (A) expanding access to parent engagement and
12 evidence-based parent education programs;

13 (B) establishing comprehensive statewide best
14 practice guidelines for those programs; and

15 (C) establishing methods for using existing
16 administrative and program data to identify and target program
17 services to:

18 (i) appropriate parents in this state;

19 (ii) communities with the greatest need for
20 the program services; and

21 (iii) families exhibiting high levels of
22 risk factors, which include a preterm birth, poverty, having low
23 parent educational attainment, having one or more teenage parents,
24 having poor maternal health, and having parent unemployment or
25 underemployment.

26 Sec. 531.438. REPORT. (a) The task force shall prepare a
27 report that includes:

1 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;
2 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
3 force, including recommendations described by Section 531.437(3);
4 and
5 (3) proposed legislation or recommendations or
6 information on any other relevant matter that the task force
7 considers appropriate.

8 (b) Not later than December 1, 2018, the task force shall
9 submit the report prepared under this section to the governor, the
10 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
11 and the presiding officers of the standing committees of the senate
12 and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over
13 issues relating to parent engagement and education.

14 Sec. 531.439. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMISSION. The commission
15 shall provide reasonably necessary administrative and technical
16 support to the task force.

17 Sec. 531.440. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. Appointed
18 members of the task force serve without compensation and may not be
19 reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting
20 the business of the task force.

21 Sec. 531.441. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110
22 does not apply to the task force.

23 Sec. 531.442. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The commission
24 may accept on behalf of the task force a gift, grant, or donation
25 from any source to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

26 Sec. 531.443. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and
27 this subchapter expires September 1, 2019.

1 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
2 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
3 Services Commission shall appoint the members of the task force on
4 parent engagement and education programs as required by Sections
5 531.433(7), (8), and (9), Government Code, as added by this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.