

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 1468

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of a task force to examine the  
3 effectiveness of school counseling programs provided for students  
4 enrolled in public schools.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 38.038 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 38.038. PUBLIC SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE;  
9 REPORT. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Public school chief executive officer" means the  
11 superintendent of a school district or the chief executive officer  
12 of an open-enrollment charter school.

13 (2) "Public school mental health professional" means a  
14 person who provides counseling services in a public school and is:

15 (A) a counselor certified under Subchapter B,  
16 Chapter 21;

17 (B) a licensed physician who is:

18 (i) a graduate of an accredited psychiatric  
19 residency training program; or

20 (ii) certified in psychiatry by:

21 (a) the American Board of Psychiatry  
22 and Neurology; or

23 (b) the American Osteopathic Board of  
24 Neurology and Psychiatry;

1           (C) an advanced practice registered nurse, as  
2 defined by Section 301.152, Occupations Code, who holds a  
3 nationally recognized board certification in psychiatric or mental  
4 health nursing;

5           (D) a psychologist, as defined by Section  
6 501.002, Occupations Code;

7           (E) a licensed professional counselor, as  
8 defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code; or

9           (F) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined  
10 by Section 505.002, Occupations Code.

11         (b) The Public School Mental Health task force is  
12 established under this section to examine the effectiveness of  
13 school counseling programs provided for students enrolled in public  
14 schools.

15         (c) The task force is composed of the following 25 members  
16 appointed by the commissioner:

17           (1) 10 public school mental health professionals;

18           (2) five public school chief executive officers;

19           (3) four representatives of regional education  
20 service centers who have experience with school counseling;

21           (4) one representative of the State Board of  
22 Education;

23           (5) one representative of the agency;

24           (6) two representatives of professional counseling  
25 organizations; and

26           (7) two representatives of research organizations  
27 that have conducted academic research on school counseling.

1       (d) The commissioner shall appoint the members of the task  
2 force not later than December 31, 2020. The commissioner shall fill  
3 a vacancy in the task force by the appointment of another person  
4 with the same qualifications as the original appointee.

5       (e) The representative of the agency shall serve as the  
6 presiding officer of the task force.

7       (f) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of  
8 the task force on or before January 31, 2021. The task force shall  
9 meet at least twice each year in Austin, Texas, and at other times  
10 and places that the presiding officer determines are appropriate.

11       (g) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the  
12 task force.

13       (h) The task force shall:

14               (1) examine whether public schools are using school  
15 counseling programs, including the national framework developed by  
16 the American School Counselor Association;

17               (2) examine other existing measures used by schools  
18 that positively affect student mental health;

19               (3) determine which school counseling programs  
20 achieve the best performance, considering the cost of the program,  
21 the number of students served, and the effectiveness of the  
22 program;

23               (4) determine which school counseling programs  
24 schools prefer to use; and

25               (5) conduct a statistical analysis, incorporating  
26 information on student demographics, including student family  
27 average income, to determine the overall effectiveness of school

1 counseling programs and the impact on student achievement and  
2 performance.

3 (i) Not later than August 31, 2022, the task force shall  
4 deliver a report to the commissioner detailing the task force's  
5 findings and recommendations and the results of the statistical  
6 analysis conducted by the task force.

7 (j) The task force is abolished, and this section expires,  
8 December 1, 2022.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.