A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of a task force on faith-based

3 programs that provide assistance during a disaster.

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

5   SECTION 1. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by

6 adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

7   SUBCHAPTER I. TASK FORCE ON FAITH-BASED DISASTER RESPONSE

8   Sec. 418.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

9   (1) "Chief" means the chief of the division appointed

10 under Section 418.041.

11   (2) "Task force" means the task force on faith-based

12 disaster response established under this subchapter.

13   Sec. 418.252. ESTABLISHMENT. The task force on faith-based

14 disaster response is established to assist the division by studying

15 the participation of faith-based organizations in disaster

16 response.

17   Sec. 418.253. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The task force is composed

18 of representatives of faith-based organizations active in disaster

19 response appointed by the chief.

20   (b) The chief shall determine the number of members of the

21 task force to ensure effective representation of faith-based

22 organizations active in disaster response.

23   Sec. 418.254. OFFICERS. (a) The chief is designated as the

24 interim presiding officer for purposes of calling and conducting

1 the initial meeting of the task force.

2 (b) The task force:

3 (1) shall at its initial meeting select a presiding

4 officer from among its members for the purpose of calling and

5 conducting meetings; and

6 (2) may select an assistant presiding officer and

7 secretary from among its members.

8 Sec. 418.255. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. A member of the

9 task force is not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of

10 expenses for service on the task force.

11 Sec. 418.256. MEETINGS. (a) After its initial meeting, the

12 task force shall meet at least twice each year at a time and place

13 determined by the presiding officer.

14 (b) The task force may meet at other times the task force

15 considers appropriate. The presiding officer may call a meeting on

16 the officer's own motion.

17 (c) The task force may meet by teleconference.

18 Sec. 418.257. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The division shall

19 provide administrative support to the task force.

20 Sec. 418.258. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

21 (1) develop and implement a plan for improving data

22 collection regarding faith-based organizations that participate in

23 disaster response;

24 (2) develop best practices for communicating,

25 cooperating, and collaborating with faith-based organizations to

26 strengthen disaster response in this state;

27 (3) identify and address inefficiencies in disaster

1 response provided by the state and faith-based organizations; and

2 (4) identify and address gaps in state services that

3 could be provided by faith-based organizations.

4 Sec. 418.259. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2020, the

5 task force shall submit to the governor and the legislature a report

6 of the task force's activities conducted under Section 418.258 and

7 any recommendations for legislative or other action.

8 Sec. 418.260. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The task force may solicit

9 and accept gifts and grants from any source to be used to carry out a

10 function of the task force.

11 Sec. 418.261. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and

12 this subchapter expires September 1, 2021.

13 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2019, the chief of the

14 Texas Division of Emergency Management shall appoint members to the

15 task force on faith-based disaster response, as required by Section

16 418.253, Government Code, as added by this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

21 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.