

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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3616 was passed by the House on May 3, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3616 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor