

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 3616

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a task force on faith-based programs that provide assistance during a disaster.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.054 to read as follows:

Section 418.054. TASK FORCE ON FAITH-BASED DISASTER RESPONSE. (a) The task force on faith-based disaster response is established to assist the division in fulfilling the division's duties under Section 418.043, Government Code. The division shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(b) The task force is composed of representatives of faith-based organizations active in disaster appointed by the chief of the division. The chief may appoint as many task force members as are optimal to ensure effective representation of faith-based organizations active in disaster response.

(c) The chief is designated as the interim presiding officer for purposes of calling and conducting the initial meeting of the task force. The task force shall at its initial meeting select a presiding officer from among its members for the purpose of calling and conducting meetings, and may select an assistant presiding officer and a secretary from among its members. A member of the task force may not receive compensation or reimbursement for service on the task force.

1 (d) After its initial meeting, the task force shall meet at
2 least twice each year at a time and place determined by the
3 presiding officer. The task force may meet at other times the task
4 force considers appropriate. The presiding officer may call a
5 meeting on the officer's own motion. The task force may meet by
6 teleconference.

7 (e) The task force shall:

8 (1) develop and implement a plan for improving data
9 collection regarding faith-based organizations that participate in
10 disaster relief;

11 (2) develop best practices for communicating,
12 cooperating, and collaborating with faith-based organizations to
13 strengthen disaster response in this state;

14 (3) identify and address inefficiencies in disaster
15 relief provided by the state and faith-based organizations; and

16 (4) identify and address gaps in state services that
17 faith-based organizations could fill.

18 (f) The task force shall prepare a report and may include
19 recommendations relating to legislation or administrative actions
20 necessary to address an issue identified by the task force related
21 to the participation of faith-based organizations in disaster
22 relief. The task force shall present the report to the Legislature
23 and Governor not later than December 1, 2020.

24 (g) The task force may solicit, accept, and administer
25 gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source.

26 (h) This section expires September 1, 2021.

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

1 Texas Division of Emergency Management shall appoint members to the
2 task force on faith-based disaster response in accordance with
3 Section 416.054, Government Code, as added by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.