

1-1 By: Hunter, Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 3616  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2019;  
1-3 May 10, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Water &  
1-4 Rural Affairs; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

|      | Yea              | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-7  |                  |     |        |     |
| 1-8  | <u>Perry</u>     | X   |        |     |
| 1-9  | <u>Creighton</u> | X   |        |     |
| 1-10 | <u>Alvarado</u>  | X   |        |     |
| 1-11 | <u>Johnson</u>   | X   |        |     |
| 1-12 | <u>Kolkhorst</u> | X   |        |     |
| 1-13 | <u>Rodríguez</u> | X   |        |     |
| 1-14 | <u>Taylor</u>    | X   |        |     |

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the establishment of a task force on faith-based  
1-18 programs that provide assistance during a disaster.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by  
1-21 adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

1-22 SUBCHAPTER I. TASK FORCE ON FAITH-BASED DISASTER RESPONSE

1-23 Sec. 418.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-24 (1) "Chief" means the chief of the division appointed  
1-25 under Section 418.041.

1-26 (2) "Task force" means the task force on faith-based  
1-27 disaster response established under this subchapter.

1-28 Sec. 418.252. ESTABLISHMENT. The task force on faith-based  
1-29 disaster response is established to assist the division by studying  
1-30 the participation of faith-based organizations in disaster  
1-31 response.

1-32 Sec. 418.253. MEMBERSHIP. (a) The task force is composed  
1-33 of representatives of faith-based organizations active in disaster  
1-34 response appointed by the chief.

1-35 (b) The chief shall determine the number of members of the  
1-36 task force to ensure effective representation of faith-based  
1-37 organizations active in disaster response.

1-38 Sec. 418.254. OFFICERS. (a) The chief is designated as the  
1-39 interim presiding officer for purposes of calling and conducting  
1-40 the initial meeting of the task force.

1-41 (b) The task force:

1-42 (1) shall at its initial meeting select a presiding  
1-43 officer from among its members for the purpose of calling and  
1-44 conducting meetings; and

1-45 (2) may select an assistant presiding officer and  
1-46 secretary from among its members.

1-47 Sec. 418.255. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. A member of the  
1-48 task force is not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of  
1-49 expenses for service on the task force.

1-50 Sec. 418.256. MEETINGS. (a) After its initial meeting, the  
1-51 task force shall meet at least twice each year at a time and place  
1-52 determined by the presiding officer.

1-53 (b) The task force may meet at other times the task force  
1-54 considers appropriate. The presiding officer may call a meeting on  
1-55 the officer's own motion.

1-56 (c) The task force may meet by teleconference.

1-57 Sec. 418.257. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The division shall  
1-58 provide administrative support to the task force.

1-59 Sec. 418.258. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

1-60 (1) develop and implement a plan for improving data  
1-61 collection regarding faith-based organizations that participate in

2-1 disaster response;  
2-2 (2) develop best practices for communicating,  
2-3 cooperating, and collaborating with faith-based organizations to  
2-4 strengthen disaster response in this state;

2-5 (3) identify and address inefficiencies in disaster  
2-6 response provided by the state and faith-based organizations; and

2-7 (4) identify and address gaps in state services that  
2-8 could be provided by faith-based organizations.

2-9 Sec. 418.259. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2020, the  
2-10 task force shall submit to the governor and the legislature a report  
2-11 of the task force's activities conducted under Section 418.258 and  
2-12 any recommendations for legislative or other action.

2-13 Sec. 418.260. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The task force may solicit  
2-14 and accept gifts and grants from any source to be used to carry out a  
2-15 function of the task force.

2-16 Sec. 418.261. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
2-17 this subchapter expires September 1, 2021.

2-18 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2019, the chief of the  
2-19 Texas Division of Emergency Management shall appoint members to the  
2-20 task force on faith-based disaster response, as required by Section  
2-21 418.253, Government Code, as added by this Act.

2-22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-26 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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