

By: Frank

H.B. No. 3950

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the establishment of the child welfare task force and  
3 provision of services in the child welfare system.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
7 Commission.

8 (2) "Community-based care" has the meaning assigned by  
9 Section [264.152](#), Family Code.

10 (3) "Department" means the Department of Family and  
11 Protective Services.

12 (4) "Task force" means the child welfare task force.

13 (b) The child welfare task force is established to develop a  
14 statewide plan for the continued implementation of community-based  
15 care and the implementation of family preservation and other  
16 related prevention services for the state's child welfare system.

17 (c) The task force is composed of nine voting members as  
18 follows:

19 (1) three members appointed by the governor;

20 (2) three members of the senate, appointed by the  
21 lieutenant governor; and

22 (3) three members of the house of representatives,  
23 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

24 (d) The chair and the vice chair of the task force shall be

1 elected by members of the task force.

2 (e) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for  
3 service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for  
4 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force  
5 duties. The task force may accept gifts, grants, and donations to  
6 pay for those expenses.

7 (f) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call  
8 of the chair and may consider public testimony.

9 (g) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any  
10 other law, the task force may meet by telephone conference call,  
11 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method. A  
12 meeting held by telephone conference call, videoconference, or  
13 other similar telecommunication method is subject to the  
14 requirements of Sections 551.125(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government  
15 Code.

16 (h) The task force shall develop a statewide plan for the  
17 continued implementation of community-based care and the  
18 implementation of family preservation and other related prevention  
19 services for the state's child welfare system.

20 (i) The statewide plan must:

21 (1) identify sources of funding, including the  
22 development of a robust financial methodology, for the continued  
23 implementation of community-based care and family preservation and  
24 other related prevention services;

25 (2) include a timeline for the complete implementation  
26 of the statewide plan developed by the task force and identify  
27 additional resources that will be required by the department to

1 meet that timeline, including enhanced training related to  
2 procurement, contract monitoring and enforcement services,  
3 information technology services, and financial and legal services;

4 (3) identify necessary purchased services that may be  
5 procured using federal funds, including services that may be  
6 procured using federal funds available under the federal Family  
7 First Prevention Services Act (Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L.  
8 No. 115-123), for the integration of family preservation and other  
9 related prevention services in community-based care;

10 (4) identify all sources of flexible funding under  
11 federal and state law that may be used to support the continued  
12 implementation of community-based care and family preservation and  
13 other related prevention services; and

14 (5) identify legislative or regulatory barriers to  
15 full implementation of community-based care.

16 (j) The task force may request relevant information from the  
17 commission, the department, or other relevant state agencies, and  
18 the commission, the department, or other agencies shall comply with  
19 the request, unless the provision of the information is prohibited  
20 by state or federal law.

21 (k) The task force, using available resources, may:

22 (1) contract with a third-party consultant using the  
23 procedures under Subchapter B, Chapter [2254](#), Government Code, to  
24 assist the task force in carrying out its duties; and

25 (2) employ a full-time staff.

26 (l) The task force shall submit a written report on the  
27 statewide plan developed by the task force to the governor, the

1 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
2 and each member of the standing committees of the senate and house  
3 of representatives having primary jurisdiction over child welfare  
4 issues not later than September 1, 2020.

5 (m) The task force shall monitor the continued  
6 implementation of community-based care and family preservation and  
7 other related prevention services, and the implementation plan  
8 developed by the department under Section 264.153, Family Code.

9 (n) The task force shall submit a final evaluation of the  
10 implementation of community-based care to the governor, the  
11 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
12 and each member of the standing committees of the senate and house  
13 of representatives having primary jurisdiction over child welfare  
14 issues not later than December 30, 2024.

15 (o) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede  
16 or limit the department's duty to develop and maintain the plan  
17 under Section 264.153, Family Code.

18 (p) The task force is abolished and this Act expires  
19 December 31, 2024.

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