

By: Meza

H.B. No. 4462

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force to study issues affecting persons with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. TASK FORCE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Disability" means, with respect to an individual, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits at least one major life activity of that individual.

(2) "Task force" means the task force established by this section.

(b) A task force is established to study access to legal services for persons with disabilities.

(c) The task force is composed of seven members as follows:

(1) one member appointed by the governor;

(2) four members who are adults with disabilities; and

(3) two members who are parents of a minor with disabilities.

(d) A majority of the members appointed to the task force under Subsection (c) of this section must be persons with disabilities or guardians of children with disabilities.

(e) The member appointed by the governor shall serve as the presiding officer of the task force.

(f) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the presiding officer and at other times determined by the

1 presiding officer.

2 (g) The task force shall study:

3 (1) Access to legal services for persons with
4 disabilities.

5 (h) The study under Subsection (g) of this section must
6 examine and make recommendations regarding:

7 (1) the availability of legal representation for
8 persons with disabilities;

9 (2) the availability of advocacy and legal services
10 for persons with disabilities; and

11 (3) the barriers to accessing legal services for
12 persons with disabilities, including communication, financial,
13 medical, and cognitive barriers.

14 (i) The task force shall develop and submit a written report
15 of the study and recommendations developed by the task force to the
16 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
17 representatives, and each member of the legislature not later than
18 December 1, 2020.

19 (j) The task force may develop instructional and training
20 materials for legal professionals and persons with disabilities
21 relating to legal issues affecting persons with disabilities.

22 (k) The task force may partner with or seek and accept
23 assistance from voluntary organizations active in supporting the
24 disabled community.

25 (l) The task force is abolished and this Act expires June 1,
26 2021.

27 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect

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