

By: West

S.B. No. 1130

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force on father engagement in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 265, Family Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. TASK FORCE ON FATHER ENGAGEMENT

Sec. 265.201. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force" means the task force on father engagement established under Section 265.202.

Sec. 265.202. ESTABLISHMENT. The task force on father engagement is established to:

(1) evaluate services and supports available to fathers in this state;

(2) study the impact of father engagement on children, families, and communities in this state; and

(3) develop a statewide plan for expanding services and supports available to fathers and other strategies to strengthen father engagement in this state.

Sec. 265.203. COMPOSITION. (a) The governor shall determine the number of members of the task force.

(b) The task force is composed of:

(1) members appointed by the governor, which may include:

1 (A) policy experts in child abuse and neglect
2 prevention, community advocacy, or related fields;

3 (B) directors of relevant state agencies, or the
4 directors' designees, including the department, the Department of
5 State Health Services, the Health and Human Services Commission,
6 the office of the attorney general, and the Texas Workforce
7 Commission;

8 (C) members of the judiciary or their designees;

9 (D) representatives of local government or their
10 designees;

11 (E) representatives of service providers to the
12 department;

13 (F) one representative who is an expert working
14 with and studying fathers and families;

15 (G) one representative from a public or private
16 institution of higher education with experience in father
17 engagement;

18 (H) one representative of a statewide advocacy
19 organization for issues related to family violence; and

20 (I) any other members that the governor considers
21 appropriate;

22 (2) one member of the house of representatives,
23 appointed by the speaker of the house, or the member's designee; and

24 (3) one member of the senate, appointed by the
25 lieutenant governor, or the member's designee.

26 Sec. 265.204. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall
27 designate a member of the task force to serve as the presiding

1 officer.

2 Sec. 265.205. VACANCY. A vacancy on the task force shall
3 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

4 Sec. 265.206. MEETINGS. The task force shall meet at the
5 call of the presiding officer.

6 Sec. 265.207. DUTIES. The task force shall:

7 (1) receive reports and testimony from individuals,
8 state and local governmental agencies, community-based
9 organizations, policy experts, public and private institutions of
10 higher education, and other public and private entities regarding
11 father engagement and evidence-based father education programs;

12 (2) study the social and economic impact of father
13 engagement on children, including in regard to health care,
14 education, child support, child welfare, and the juvenile justice
15 system; and

16 (3) identify and develop strategies to address
17 barriers to father engagement and to otherwise strengthen father
18 engagement in this state.

19 Sec. 265.208. REPORT. (a) The task force shall prepare a
20 report that includes:

21 (1) a description of the task force's activities;

22 (2) the task force's findings; and

23 (3) recommendations for proposed legislation and a
24 statewide plan to expand services and supports to fathers in this
25 state.

26 (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the task force shall
27 provide a copy of the report to:

- 1 (1) the governor;
- 2 (2) the lieutenant governor;
- 3 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and
- 4 (4) each standing committee of the senate and the
5 house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over the
6 department.

7 Sec. 265.209. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. Members of the
8 task force serve without compensation and may not be reimbursed for
9 travel or other expenses incurred while conducting the business of
10 the task force.

11 Sec. 265.210. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The department
12 shall provide administrative support to the task force, including
13 reasonably necessary administrative and technical support.

14 Sec. 265.211. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110,
15 Government Code, does not apply to the task force.

16 Sec. 265.212. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and
17 this subchapter expires September 1, 2021.

18 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
19 of this Act, the governor, the speaker of the house of
20 representatives, and the lieutenant governor shall appoint the
21 members of the task force on father engagement as required by
22 Subchapter E, Chapter 265, Family Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.