

By: Howard

H.B. No. 183

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the task force on asylum-seeking migrants.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter R to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER R. TASK FORCE ON ASYLUM-SEEKING MIGRANTS

Sec. 403.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Asylum-seeking migrant" means a person who is seeking asylum in the United States and who has been released into a community in this state by:

(A) the Office of Refugee Resettlement;

(B) United States Customs and Border Protection or United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, pending an immigration hearing;

C) the Department of Public Safety; or

(D) any other state or federal law enforcement agency stationed at the border.

(2) "Task force" means the task force on asylum-seeking migrants.

Sec. 403.502. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSES. The task force on asylum-seeking migrants is established to:

(1) study the humanitarian and fiscal impacts of the presence of asylum-seeking migrants in this state related to:

1 (a) public education and school districts;
2 (b) open-enrollment charter schools;
3 (c) institutions of higher education;
4 (d) the provision of health and human services
5 and child protection;

6 e) the Texas Workforce Commission;
7 f) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as
8 well as the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, issues studied by
9 the Task Force shall include, but is not limited to, information
10 pertaining to:

11 (f-1) human trafficking;
12 (f-2) sex trafficking; and
13 (f-3) sexual assault; or
14 (g) other areas the Task Force determines to be
15 relevant in the production of the report.

16 (2) produce a report outlining the status of
17 asylum-seeking migrants in this state and distribute that report to
18 state officials.

19 Sec. 403.503. COMPOSITION. The task force is composed of
20 twelve members to be appointed by the comptroller as follows:

21 (1) one representative of a faith-based organization
22 providing direct services to asylum-seeking migrants in this state;

23 (2) one representative of a community-based
24 organization providing direct services to asylum-seeking migrants
25 in this state;

26 (3) one member who is a superintendent of a school
27 district from the border region of Texas;

1 (4) one representative of a law enforcement agency;

2 (5) one representative of the Texas Education Agency;

3 (6) one representative of the Health and Human
4 Services Commission;

5 (7) one representative of the comptroller;

6 (8) one representative of the Texas Higher Education
7 Coordination Board;

8 (9) one representative of the Texas Department of
9 Criminal Justice;

10 (10) one representative of the Texas Juvenile Justice
11 Department; and

12 (11) one member from the Texas House and Texas Senate
13 who represent a region of the border.

14 Sec. 403.504. MEETINGS. (a) The task force shall meet at
15 least three times each year and may hold additional meetings in
16 person or by conference call if necessary.

17 (b) Section 551.125 applies to a meeting held by conference
18 call under this section, except that Section 551.125(b) does not
19 apply.

20 Sec. 403.505. COMPENSATION. A member of the task force may
21 not receive compensation for service on the task force.

22 Sec. 403.506. REPORT. (a) Using funds available to the
23 task force under Section 403.507, the task force shall partner with
24 an independent third party to produce a report outlining the status
25 of asylum-seeking migrants in this state.

26 (b) The task force shall submit the report to the governor,
27 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and

1 comptroller no later than December 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

2 Sec. 403.507. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The
3 comptroller may accept on behalf of the task force a gift, grant, or
4 donation from any source to carry out the purposes of this
5 subchapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
6 subchapter, the comptroller is not required to convene the task
7 force to produce the report if sufficient private gifts, grants, or
8 donations are not available.

9 Sec. 403.508. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and
10 this subchapter expires January 1, 2024.

11 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2021, the
12 comptroller of public accounts shall, subject to Section 403.507,
13 Government Code, as added by this Act, convene the task force
14 required under Subchapter R, Chapter 403, Government Code, as added
15 by this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.