87R3549 JG-D

By:  Lopez H.B. No. 2045

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force to evaluate the housing needs of senior citizens who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning.

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

SECTION 1.  (a) In this section, "task force" means the task force established under this section.

(b)  The task force is established to evaluate the housing needs of senior citizens who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning and to develop potential housing solutions to address those needs and provide to those senior citizens safe, affordable housing options. In conducting the evaluation, the task force shall assess the evolving housing needs of senior citizens who may need to transition into a long-term care facility, including an assisted living facility or a nursing facility.

(c)  The task force is composed of the following 10 members:

(1)  the chair of the LGBTQ caucus of the house of representatives, to serve as presiding officer of the task force; and

(2)  nine members appointed by the governor as follows:

(A)  three appropriately qualified individuals who are representatives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning community;

(B)  three individuals with appropriate expertise on issues faced by the aging population, which may include representatives of the Coalition for Aging LGBT, assisted living facilities, or nursing facilities; and

(C)  three individuals with appropriate expertise in the area of public safety and housing, which may include one or more representatives of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

(d)  In making the appointments under Subsection (c) of this section, the governor shall seek input from appropriately qualified organizations and stakeholders, including the Coalition for Aging LGBT and Equality Texas.

(e)  The governor shall make the appointments required by Subsection (c) of this section not later than November 1, 2021.

(f)  The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding officer. The task force may meet in person or by electronic means.

(g)  A task force member is not entitled to compensation for service on the task force but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force duties. The task force may accept gifts, grants, and donations to pay for those expenses.

(h)  Not later than September 1, 2022, the task force shall prepare and submit to the governor, the legislature, and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs a written report summarizing the results of the evaluation conducted under Subsection (b) of this section and proposing potential housing solutions, including any legislative recommendations.

(i)  The task force is abolished and this Act expires December 1, 2022.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.