By:  Birdwell S.B. No. 1177

(In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2021; March 18, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development; April 21, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 21, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Birdwell        X

Zaffirini       X

Alvarado        X

Hancock                   X

Hinojosa        X

Hughes          X

Kolkhorst       X

Lucio           X

Seliger         X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force to evaluate state-owned artifact collections.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITION. In this Act, "task force" means the task force established under Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 2.  ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE. A task force is established to manage artifact collections owned by this state.

SECTION 3.  TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP. (a) The task force is composed of representatives of the:

(1)  Texas Historical Commission;

(2)  General Land Office;

(3)  Texas State Library and Archives Commission;

(4)  Parks and Wildlife Department;

(5)  State Preservation Board; and

(6)  Texas Facilities Commission.

(b)  The executive director of each state agency represented on the task force shall appoint an employee of the agency to serve as the agency's representative on the task force not later than October 1, 2021.

(c)  The member representing the Texas Facilities Commission must have engineering and architectural expertise.

SECTION 4.  REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. A member of the task force is not entitled to compensation for service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting the business of the task force as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5.  DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. For each state agency represented on the task force, the task force shall:

(1)  evaluate the need for a separate collections facility for the agency and compare use of a separate collection facility to a secure centrally located joint collections facility with a processing laboratory for repair, cleaning, re-housing, and light conservation of state artifacts, including cost estimates for maintaining a separate collections facility for each agency compared to a joint collections facility;

(2)  analyze the storage capacity for the agency's collections to determine whether the agency's collections facility is adequate for the agency's successful stewardship of its collections over the next five years and 10 years;

(3)  review the option of establishing a disaster-secure collections facility with separate storage areas for each agency;

(4)  review the recommendations in the Texas Historical Commission's December 2018 response to the Sunset Advisory Commission decisions on creating a searchable public catalog of state-owned collections to determine cost estimates for implementing the recommendations and a process for implementing the recommendations; and

(5)  assess any unmet need of the agency regarding state-owned collections as determined by the task force.

SECTION 6.  REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2022, the task force shall report the task force's findings and determinations under Section 5 of this Act to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over the history and culture of this state.

SECTION 7.  EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 8.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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