

By: Campos

H.B. No. 1234

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duties of the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

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

SECTION 1. Section 81.401, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 81.401. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this subchapter:

(1) "COVID-19" means the 2019 novel coronavirus disease.

(2) "Task [~~task~~ force" means the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

SECTION 2. Section 81.403, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 81.403. TASK FORCE; DUTIES. (a) The Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response is created as an advisory panel to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The task force shall:

(1) provide expert, evidence-based assessments, protocols, and recommendations related to state responses to infectious diseases, including Ebola and COVID-19; and

(2) serve as a reliable and transparent source of information and education for Texas leadership and citizens.

SECTION 3. Section 81.405, Health and Safety Code, is

1 amended to read as follows:

2 Sec. 81.405. REPORTS. (a) The task force may make written
3 reports on its findings and recommendations, including legislative
4 recommendations, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
5 speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the
6 legislature.

7 (b) Not later than the second anniversary of the date a
8 public health disaster is declared, the task force shall:

9 (1) evaluate the state's preparedness and response to
10 the public health disaster; and

11 (2) submit a written report to the governor, the
12 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
13 and each member of the legislature containing the task force's
14 findings and recommendations, including any legislative
15 recommendations.

16 SECTION 4. 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.