

By: Johnson of Dallas

H.B. No. 1761

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the child care accessibility and affordability task force.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "task force" means the child care accessibility and affordability task force established under this section.

(b) The task force is established to study the accessibility and affordability of child care in this state.

(c) The task force is composed of the following 11 members:

(1) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, or the executive commissioner's designee approved by the governor; and

(2) 10 members appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as follows:

(A) two child development professionals who are licensed to practice in this state, one of whom must specialize in early childhood education;

(B) one representative of a state employee organization described by Section 403.0165, Government Code;

(C) one representative of an organization representing the interests of licensed child-care facilities;

(D) one social worker licensed to practice in this state;

1 (E) one community advocate for child care  
2 workers;

3 (F) one representative of the business community  
4 in this state;

5 (G) one representative of or director from a  
6 private child care facility;

7 (H) one home-based child care provider; and

8 (I) one state employee who is a parent of not less  
9 than one school-aged child.

10 (d) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for  
11 service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for  
12 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force  
13 duties. The task force may accept gifts, grants, and donations to  
14 pay for those expenses.

15 (e) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
16 Services Commission shall appoint a chair and vice chair of the task  
17 force.

18 (f) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call  
19 of the chair and may meet at other times at the call of the chair.  
20 The chair shall set the agenda for each meeting.

21 (g) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any  
22 other law, the task force may meet by telephone conference call,  
23 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method. A  
24 meeting held by telephone conference call, videoconference, or  
25 other similar telecommunication method is subject to the  
26 requirements of Sections 551.125(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government  
27 Code.

1 (h) The task force shall:

2 (1) conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the  
3 accessibility and affordability of child care in this state;

4 (2) develop recommendations to incentivize  
5 employer-supported child care;

6 (3) create a cost-estimate model to project the cost  
7 of providing safe, accessible, and affordable child care to anyone  
8 in this state who needs to use child care;

9 (4) identify regions of the state in which child care  
10 is less accessible than in the state at large, and shall develop  
11 recommendations for improving the availability of child care in  
12 those regions, including:

13 (A) proposing policies that will address racial,  
14 ethnic, and any geographic disparity and proportionality in the  
15 delivery of child care services; and

16 (B) identifying opportunities to streamline the  
17 child care licensing requirements and to facilitate development and  
18 construction of additional child care facilities; and

19 (5) conduct a survey of state employees to better  
20 understand the barriers to accessing and affording child care.

21 (i) The task force shall submit a written report to the  
22 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
23 representatives, and each member of the legislature not later than  
24 December 31, 2022, detailing the findings of the task force. The  
25 report must include:

26 (1) a summary of the accessibility and affordability  
27 of child care to state employees, as determined by the survey in

1 Subsection (h)(5) of this section; and

2           (2) a plan to provide accessible and affordable child  
3 care to all families in this state by the year 2030.

4           (j) The task force is abolished and this Act expires June 1,  
5 2023.

6           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.