

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 2355

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of a task force to study the legal and
3 societal barriers to equality for persons who are transgender.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "task force" means the
6 transgender equality task force.

7 (b) The task force is established to study the legal and
8 societal barriers to equality for persons in this state who are
9 transgender.

10 (c) The task force is composed of:

11 (1) 11 members appointed by the governor as follows:

12 (A) one representative of the Texas Department of
13 Banking;

14 (B) one representative of the Texas Department of
15 Criminal Justice;

16 (C) one representative of the Department of
17 Family and Protective Services;

18 (D) one representative of the Texas Department of
19 Insurance;

20 (E) one representative of the Department of State
21 Health Services;

22 (F) one representative of the Texas Education
23 Agency;

24 (G) one representative of the Health and Human

1 Services Commission;

2 (H) one representative of an institution of
3 higher education;

4 (I) one representative of the Texas Workforce
5 Commission civil rights division;

6 (J) one representative of the Texas Workforce
7 Commission division of workforce development; and

8 (K) one representative of a nonprofit
9 organization dedicated to civil rights;

10 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor
11 as follows:

12 (A) a parent or guardian of a person who is
13 transgender; and

14 (B) an attorney who specializes in transgender
15 rights; and

16 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house
17 of representatives as follows:

18 (A) a physician who specializes in transgender
19 health issues; and

20 (B) one person who is transgender.

21 (d) The task force shall hold its first meeting not later
22 than October 1, 2021, and shall elect a presiding officer from among
23 its membership. The task force shall hold subsequent meetings at
24 least quarterly at the call of the presiding officer.

25 (e) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for
26 service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for
27 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force

1 duties. The task force may accept gifts, grants, and donations to
2 pay for those expenses.

3 (f) The Texas Workforce Commission civil rights division
4 shall provide administrative support services at the request of the
5 task force.

6 (g) The task force shall study the state actions necessary
7 to ensure equality and improve the lives of persons who are
8 transgender, with particular attention to the following areas:

9 (1) health care, including access to health care
10 providers who are trained in transgender medical issues;

11 (2) long-term care for persons who are transgender and
12 chronically ill or of advanced age;

13 (3) education;

14 (4) higher education;

15 (5) housing, including homelessness prevention and
16 reduction;

17 (6) employment; and

18 (7) criminal justice, including the following:

19 (A) raising transgender awareness among law
20 enforcement through training; and

21 (B) facilitating the appropriate placement of
22 persons who are transgender in correctional facilities based on a
23 person's gender identity.

24 (h) A state agency shall cooperate with and assist the task
25 force in carrying out the duties of the task force.

26 (i) Not later than December 1, 2022, the task force shall
27 prepare and submit to the governor and the legislature a written

1 report that summarizes the task force's findings under this section
2 and recommends solutions for advancing transgender equality and
3 improving the lives of persons in this state who are transgender.

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

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