

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1157

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force on ensuring an appropriate care setting for a person with a disability.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02441 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02441. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ENSURING APPROPRIATE CARE SETTINGS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The executive commissioner shall establish an interagency task force to assist the commission and appropriate health and human services agencies in developing a comprehensive, effectively working plan to ensure appropriate care settings for persons with disabilities.

(b) The executive commissioner shall determine the number of members of the task force. The executive commissioner shall appoint as members of the task force:

(1) representatives of appropriate health and human services agencies;

(2) representatives of related work groups;

(3) representatives of consumer and family advocacy groups; and

(4) representatives of service providers for persons with disabilities.

(c) The executive commissioner shall designate a member of the task force to serve as presiding officer. The members of the

1 task force shall elect any other necessary officers.

2 (d) The task force shall meet at the call of the executive
3 commissioner.

4 (e) A member of the task force serves at the will of the
5 executive commissioner.

6 (f) A member of the task force may not receive compensation
7 for serving on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for
8 travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting the
9 business of the task force as provided by the General
10 Appropriations Act.

11 (g) The task force shall study and make recommendations to
12 the commission on developing the comprehensive, effectively
13 working plan required by Section 531.0244(a) to ensure appropriate
14 care settings for persons with disabilities.

15 (h) In addition to making recommendations under Subsection
16 (g), the task force shall advise the commission and appropriate
17 health and human services agencies with respect to implementing the
18 comprehensive, effectively working plan required by Section
19 531.0244(a), giving primary consideration to:

20 (1) methods to identify and assess each person who
21 resides in an institution but chooses to live in the community and
22 for whom a transfer from an institution to the community is
23 appropriate, as determined by the person's treating professionals;

24 (2) determining the health and human services
25 agencies' availability of community care and support options
26 relating to all persons described by Subdivision (1);

27 (3) identifying, addressing, and monitoring barriers

1 to implementation of the plan to improve that implementation; and

2 (4) identifying funding options for the plan.

3 (i) Not later than September 1 of each year, the task force
4 shall submit a report to the executive commissioner on its findings
5 and recommendations required by Subsection (g).

6 (j) The task force is abolished and this section expires
7 September 1, 2025.

8 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2021, the executive
9 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
10 establish the interagency task force under Section 531.02441,
11 Government Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.