

By: Powell

S.B. No. 1862

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force by the commissioner of education on students residing in temporary living arrangements.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 7, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.928 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.928. TASK FORCE ON STUDENTS RESIDING IN TEMPORARY LIVING ARRANGEMENTS. (a) The commissioner shall establish a task force to identify the number of students residing in extended stay motels or other temporary living arrangements and study the educational outcomes of those students.

(b) The task force is composed of an odd number of not fewer than 13 members appointed by the commissioner and must include:

(1) an employee of a school district or open-enrollment charter school designated as a homeless education liaison;

(2) a representative of law enforcement;

(3) an emergency medical technician;

(4) a representative of a local mental health authority;

(5) a representative of an extended stay motel or similar temporary living shelter;

(6) two public school administrators;

(7) an employee of an institution of higher education,

1 as that term is defined by Section 61.003;

2 (8) a representative from a community service entity  
3 that provides services to homeless people;

4 (9) a mental health services provider;

5 (10) a school counselor;

6 (11) a representative of the Texas Department of  
7 Housing and Community Affairs; and

8 (12) a representative of the Health and Human Services  
9 Commission.

10 (c) In appointing members to the task force, the  
11 commissioner shall appoint, to the greatest extent practicable,  
12 persons who reside in areas that have a significant percentage of  
13 homeless students, as determined by the commissioner.

14 (d) The task force shall:

15 (1) identify local, state, and other laws or  
16 regulations that negatively impact rates of student homelessness;

17 (2) study unseen and unintended consequences of  
18 students residing in extended stay motels or in other temporary  
19 living arrangements, including dropout rates and rates of  
20 prostitution, drug use, and other negative consequences;

21 (3) recommend policies and resources that would assist  
22 families and students residing in extended stay motels or in other  
23 temporary living arrangements;

24 (4) recommend methods to increase student attendance  
25 and educational outcomes for students residing in extended stay  
26 motels or in other temporary living arrangements; and

27 (5) study the impact of the coronavirus disease

1 (COVID-19) pandemic on the student homelessness population.

2 (e) Not later than September 1, 2022, the task force shall  
3 submit to the legislature a report on the task force's findings and  
4 recommendations. The agency shall post the report on the agency's  
5 Internet website.

6 (f) The task force is abolished and this section expires  
7 September 1, 2023.

8 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
9 of this Act, the commissioner of education shall appoint the  
10 members of the task force established under Section 29.928,  
11 Education Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 3. The commissioner of education is required to  
13 implement this Act only if the legislature appropriates money  
14 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not  
15 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the commissioner  
16 may, but is not required to, implement this Act using other money  
17 available for that purpose.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.