88R26775 SHH-D

By:  Thimesch H.B. No. 4655

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the vulnerable adult protection task force.

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

SECTION 1.  (a) In this section:

(1)  "Task force" means the vulnerable adult protection task force established by this Act.

(2)  "Vulnerable adult" means:

(A)  an elderly person as that term is defined by Section 48.002, Human Resources Code; or

(B)  a person with a disability as that term is defined by Section 48.002, Human Resources Code.

(b)  The vulnerable adult protection task force is established to study abuse of vulnerable adults in this state.

(c)  The task force is composed of:

(1)  the commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services or the commissioner's designee;

(2)  the banking commissioner of the Texas Department of Banking or the banking commissioner's designee;

(3)  a district attorney selected by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association;

(4)  the following members appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives:

(A)  a representative from the banking or credit union industry;

(B)  a representative from an unaffiliated nonprofit organization that advocates for elderly persons statewide; and

(C)  a representative from the health care industry;

(5)  two members of the house of representatives selected by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(6)  two members of the senate selected by the lieutenant governor.

(d)  A task force member is not entitled to compensation for service on the task force or reimbursement for expenses incurred in performing task force duties.

(e)  The task force shall:

(1)  assess the status of vulnerable adults in this state;

(2)  examine existing services and resources addressing the needs of vulnerable adults in this state and any barriers impeding those services and resources;

(3)  determine the economic and human impact of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults in this state;

(4)  review possible solutions that could reduce the incidents of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults in this state; and

(5)  develop recommendations to address abuse of vulnerable adults in this state, including:

(A)  possible legislation; and

(B)  other state policies or responses.

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

(g)  Not later than December 31, 2024, the task force shall:

(1)  prepare a written report that summarizes the task force's findings under this section and recommends solutions for improving the well-being of vulnerable adults in this state; and

(2)  submit the written report to the:

(A)  governor;

(B)  lieutenant governor;

(C)  speaker of the house of representatives;

(D)  chair of the House Human Services Committee; and

(E)  chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

(h)  The task force is abolished and this Act expires June 1, 2025.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.