

By: J. Johnson of Harris

H.B. No. 243

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the historically underutilized business task force.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 2161, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2161.067 to read as follows:

Sec. 2161.067. HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS TASK FORCE. (a) In this section, "task force" means the historically underutilized business task force established under this section.

(b) The historically underutilized business task force is established to:

(1) review each state agency's outreach efforts, policies, and bidding processes;

(2) evaluate the amount of access to contracting opportunities available to historically underutilized businesses compared to other businesses;

(3) share effective practices among different state agencies;

(4) recommend to the legislature and state agencies strategies to:

(A) promote full and good faith compliance with this chapter in state contracting;

(B) increase participation of historically underutilized businesses in state contracting; and

(C) address other topics related to historically

1 underutilized businesses; and

2 (5) perform other duties as assigned by the  
3 comptroller and presiding officer.

4 (c) The task force shall consist of:

5 (1) one historically underutilized business  
6 coordinator from each state agency with a biennial budget that  
7 exceeds \$10 million, as described in Section 2161.062(e);

8 (2) one member appointed by the governor;

9 (3) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

10 and

11 (4) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives.

13 (d) Members of the task force that are appointed by the  
14 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house serve  
15 staggered terms of two years, with one or two members' terms  
16 expiring December 1 of each year.

17 (e) The member appointed by the governor shall serve as the  
18 initial presiding officer of the task force for a two-year term.  
19 The task force shall elect succeeding presiding officers from among  
20 its membership at the first meeting following the expiration of the  
21 presiding officer's term.

22 (f) The task force shall meet quarterly at the call of the  
23 presiding officer.

24 (g) Not later than December 1 of each year, the task force  
25 shall prepare and submit to the governor, the legislature, and each  
26 state agency a written report summarizing the task force's findings  
27 and recommendations, including legislative recommendations.

1           SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2023, the governor,  
2 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives  
3 shall each appoint one member to the historically underutilized  
4 business task force as required under Section 2161.067, Government  
5 Code, as added by this Act.

6           SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2023, the presiding  
7 officer of the historically underutilized business task force  
8 created under Section 2161.067, Government Code, as added by this  
9 Act, shall call the first meeting of the task force.

10          SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.