

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 940

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the establishment of the private child care task force.

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

4 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "task force" means the
5 private child care task force.

6 (b) The private child care task force is established to
7 study private child care providers in this state and methods to:

8 (1) reduce the amounts charged for high-quality child
9 care provided by private child care providers;

10 (2) increase the availability of high-quality child
11 care provided by private child care providers;

12 (3) address issues with wait lists for scholarships to
13 receive high-quality child care; and

14 (4) increase the number of families who are able to
15 receive high-quality child care.

16 (c) The task force is composed of seven members appointed as
17 follows:

18 (1) one member appointed by the governor to represent
19 the governor;

20 (2) three members of the senate, appointed by the
21 lieutenant governor; and

22 (3) three members of the house of representatives,
23 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

24 (d) A task force member is not entitled to compensation for

1 service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for
2 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force
3 duties. The task force may accept gifts, grants, and donations to
4 pay for those expenses.

5 (e) The member appointed by the governor shall serve as the
6 presiding officer of the task force.

7 (f) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call
8 of the presiding officer.

9 (g) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any
10 other law, the task force may meet by telephone conference call,
11 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method. A
12 meeting held by telephone conference call, videoconference, or
13 other similar telecommunication method is subject to the
14 requirements of Sections 551.125(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government
15 Code.

16 (h) The task force shall conduct a study to examine:

17 (1) the amounts charged for high-quality child care
18 provided by private child care providers;

19 (2) the availability of high-quality child care
20 provided by private child care providers;

21 (3) wait lists for scholarships to receive
22 high-quality child care;

23 (4) methods to reduce the cost to families and
24 increase the availability of high-quality child care;

25 (5) strategies to increase the number of
26 prekindergarten partnerships between independent school districts
27 and high-quality child care programs; and

1 (6) methods to strengthen the child care industry.

2 (i) The task force may request relevant information from the
3 Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Workforce
4 Commission, and the Texas Education Agency, and the entity
5 receiving the request shall comply with the request.

6 (j) The task force shall develop recommendations to reduce
7 the amounts charged for and increase the availability of
8 high-quality child care by private child care providers and of
9 prekindergarten partnerships.

10 (k) The task force shall develop and submit a written report
11 on the study and recommendations developed by the task force to the
12 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
13 representatives, and each member of the legislature not later than
14 November 1, 2024.

15 (l) The task force is abolished and this Act expires June 1,
16 2024.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.