

By: Turner

H.B. No. 1826

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of an organized retail theft task
3 force.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 403, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 403.0302 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 403.0302. ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT TASK FORCE. (a) In
8 this section, "organized retail theft" means conduct constituting
9 an offense under Section 31.16, Penal Code.

10 (b) The comptroller shall appoint a task force to study and
11 make recommendations related to preventing organized retail theft
12 in this state.

13 (c) The task force must include:

14 (1) at least one representative working in a physical
15 retail location;

16 (2) at least one representative from an online
17 retailer; and

18 (3) representatives from local, state, and federal law
19 enforcement agencies.

20 (d) The comptroller shall designate a member of the task
21 force as the presiding officer.

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

24 (f) The task force shall conduct an ongoing study of

1 organized retail theft in this state. In conducting the study the
2 task force shall:

3 (1) review laws and regulations addressing organized
4 retail theft in other jurisdictions, including international
5 political and economic organizations;

6 (2) analyze:

7 (A) the impact of organized retail theft on the
8 collection of sales tax;

9 (B) the long-term economic impacts of organized
10 retail theft; and

11 (C) the advantages and disadvantages of taking
12 various actions to reduce organized retail theft; and

13 (3) make recommendations regarding organized retail
14 theft outreach and prevention programs, including coordination
15 among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

16 (g) In conducting the study under Subsection (f), the task
17 force may consult with any organization, governmental entity, or
18 person the task force considers necessary.

19 (h) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
20 the task force shall prepare and submit a report of the study
21 conducted under Subsection (f) to the governor, the lieutenant
22 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
23 comptroller, and each standing committee of the legislature with
24 primary jurisdiction over criminal justice matters. The report
25 must include legislative and other recommendations to increase
26 transparency, improve security, enhance consumer protections,
27 prevent organized retail theft, and address the long-term economic

1 impact of organized retail theft.

2 (i) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the duration of the task
3 force or to the designation of the task force's presiding officer.

4 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
5 of this Act, the comptroller of public accounts shall appoint the
6 organized retail theft task force as required by Section 403.0302,
7 Government Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.