

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 Health and Human Services Commission or the commissioner's designee;

(2) the executive commissioner of the Department of State Health Services or the executive commissioner's designee;

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

(4) the commissioner of insurance of the Texas Department of Insurance or the commissioner of insurance's designee;

1           (5) a district attorney selected by the Texas District  
2 and County Attorneys Association;

3           (6) a representative from the Department of Public  
4 Safety;

5           (7) a representative from the banking industry;

6           (8) a representative from the credit union industry;

7           (9) a representative of an unaffiliated nonprofit  
8 organization that advocates for elderly persons statewide; and

9           (10) a representative of the health care industry.

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

13          (e) The task force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

26                   (A) possible legislation; and

27                   (B) other state policies or responses.

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

3           (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall  
4 prepare and submit to the speaker of the house of representatives a  
5 written report that summarizes the task force's findings under this  
6 section and recommends solutions for improving the well-being of  
7 vulnerable adults in this state.

8           (h) The task force is abolished and this Act expires June 1,  
9 2025.

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