

By: Hughes  
(Clardy)

S.B. No. 2315

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the creation of a task force to develop a plan for the  
3 consolidation of the functions of workforce development programs  
4 administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services  
5 programs administered by the Health and Human Services Commission.

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

7 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the  
8 creation of a task force to develop a plan for the consolidation of  
9 workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce  
10 Commission and social services programs administered by the Health  
11 and Human Services Commission. Though federal law and guidance  
12 currently restricts the consolidation of these federally funded  
13 services, the United States Congress is considering legislation to  
14 reverse the federal restrictions and allow states to consolidate  
15 these functions. This Act would provide an opportunity for Texas to  
16 implement a consolidation plan, if and when federal law allows.

17 SECTION 2. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by  
18 adding Chapter 319 to read as follows:

19 CHAPTER 319. TASK FORCE ON CONSOLIDATION OF WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL  
20 SERVICES

21 Sec. 319.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "task force"  
22 means the task force established under this chapter to develop a  
23 plan for the consolidation of workforce development and social  
24 services programs in this state.

1        Sec. 319.002. TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION. (a)

2        The task force consists of:

3                (1) three members appointed by the governor;

4                (2) three members appointed by the lieutenant  
5 governor; and

6                (3) three members appointed by the speaker of the  
7 house of representatives.

8        (b) A vacancy on the task force must be filled in the same  
9 manner as the original appointment.

10        (c) Members of the task force serve without compensation or  
11 reimbursement for expenses.

12        Sec. 319.003. TASK FORCE DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

13                (1) develop a plan for best courses of action and a  
14 regulatory framework for the consolidation of workforce  
15 development programs administered by the commission and social  
16 services programs administered by the Health and Human Services  
17 Commission; and

18                (2) make recommendations to the legislature regarding  
19 the consolidation of programs described by Subdivision (1).

20        (b) The consolidation plan developed by the task force must:

21                (1) examine all state resources, including financial,  
22 manpower, and technology resources, to determine if those resources  
23 are being used effectively and efficiently to achieve the desired  
24 outcomes for recipients of the workforce development and social  
25 services programs and for the purposes of the programs' intended  
26 goals;

27                (2) identify opportunities for cost savings or

1 reallocations of resources to improve the effectiveness of the  
2 programs by streamlining essential functions and eliminating  
3 duplicative efforts;

4 (3) be designed to improve the delivery of the  
5 programs by ensuring that applicants for and recipients of the  
6 services provided are better served by having access to a single  
7 point of contact case manager for all services sought or received;  
8 and

9 (4) identify the changes to federal law that would be  
10 necessary to implement the consolidation plan.

11 Sec. 319.004. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The commission and  
12 the Health and Human Services Commission shall provide staff and  
13 administrative support as necessary to enable the task force to  
14 carry out its duties under this chapter, including by providing:

15 (1) meeting space;

16 (2) staff to assist the task force in conducting  
17 research and drafting the consolidation plan and related materials;  
18 and

19 (3) funding available from existing resources  
20 appropriated to the commission or the Health and Human Services  
21 Commission to pay for costs associated with the task force's  
22 functions.

23 Sec. 319.005. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than  
24 December 31, 2024, the task force shall prepare and submit to the  
25 legislature a report that includes:

26 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;

27 (2) the consolidation plan developed by the task

1 force; and

2 (3) the findings and recommendations of the task  
3 force.

4 Sec. 319.006. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
5 this chapter expires September 1, 2025.

6 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2024, the governor, the  
7 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
8 representatives shall appoint the members of the task force as  
9 required by Section 319.002, Labor Code, as added by this Act.

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