

By: Schoolcraft

H.B. No. 117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education and care.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 455 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 455. GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON GOVERNANCE OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Sec. 455.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "task force" means the governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education and care established under this chapter.

Sec. 455.002. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The governor's task force on the governance of early childhood education and care is established to address the governance and operational challenges of the early childhood education system in this state.

(b) The task force is administratively attached to the Texas Education Agency.

Sec. 455.003. MEMBERS. (a) The task force shall include a steering committee composed of the following members:

(1) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission;

(2) the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency;

(3) the chair of the Texas Workforce Commission;

(4) relevant division directors designated by the

individuals described by Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3); and
(5) the Texas Education Agency's inter-agency deputy
director of early childhood support.

(b) The task force is composed of the following members:

(1) one public school teacher certified to teach
prekindergarten;

(2) one certified teacher who is employed by a private
child-care facility or prekindergarten program;

(3) a representative from the Texas Head Start State
Collaboration Office appointed by the governor;

(4) a representative from the Department of State
Health Services appointed by the governor;

(5) two representatives from the Texas Early Learning
Council designated by the steering committee described by
Subsection (a); and

(6) at least two but not more than five individuals
with knowledge of early childhood education and care or experience
as a direct operator of an early childhood education and care
program, including business and community leaders, representatives
of nonprofit organizations, and other relevant stakeholders,
appointed by the governor.

(c) The governor shall appoint the chair of the task force.

(d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the size, composition, or
duration of the task force.

Sec. 455.004. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

(1) examine governance and operational challenges in
the early childhood education and care system, including federal

1 and local child-care programs and regulations governing those
2 programs;

3 (2) with a focus on improving government efficiency,
4 conduct a comprehensive review of the existing functions and
5 responsibilities of the Health and Human Services Commission, Texas
6 Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission related to early
7 childhood education and care; and

8 (3) consider methods for a large-scale redesign of the
9 administration of early childhood programs to improve efficiency,
10 service delivery, quality of care, and the efficient use of
11 funding.

12 (b) The steering committee of the task force shall:

13 (1) align goals and metrics of the Health and Human
14 Services Commission, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce
15 Commission to measure progress, including aligning statewide data
16 systems; and

17 (2) require the Health and Human Services Commission,
18 Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission to complete
19 and submit to the task force periodic progress reports and
20 regularly refine statewide goals and strategic plans to ensure
21 alignment with evolving early childhood education and care needs.

22 (c) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the
23 purpose, the Texas Education Agency shall pay the costs of data
24 system integration, research, and administration for the task
25 force.

26 Sec. 455.005. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2026, the
27 task force shall develop and submit to the legislature policy and

1 budget recommendations designed to improve early childhood
2 education and care governance that will:

3 (1) facilitate and improve early childhood education
4 and care participant engagement with state agencies; and

5 (2) lead to improved operational efficiency,
6 increased affordable child care capacity, and improved
7 kindergarten readiness.

8 Sec. 455.006. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and
9 this chapter expires September 1, 2027.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.