

By: Frank, Dutton, et al.

H.B. No. 3284

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Marriage and Family.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "commission" means the Texas Commission on Marriage and Family.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

(1) it is in the best interests of this state to promote lasting marriage and the practice of raising children in stable, two-parent households;

(2) Texas must promote evidence-based pathways to support strong and healthy family connections by reducing barriers that prevent Texans from marrying and raising children;

(3) certain state laws, rules, and policies may discourage the positive and desirable ends of marriage and family formation; and

(4) it is necessary to convene a commission to:

(A) study and develop strategies to promote strong marriages and healthy families; and

(B) identify state laws, rules, and policies that discourage Texans from marrying and raising children.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE. The commission is created to study and develop strategies for promoting strong marriages and healthy families and to make recommendations to the legislature to advance

1 the goal of creating an environment in this state that is favorable
2 for marriage and raising children.

3 SECTION 4. COMPOSITION. (a) The commission is composed of
4 seven members as follows:

- 5 (1) three members appointed by the governor;
- 6 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- 7 and
- 8 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house
- 9 of representatives.

10 (b) In making the appointments under Subsection (a) of this
11 section, an appointing authority shall ensure the commission is
12 composed of members with a background and demonstrated expertise in
13 marriage and family formation, including:

- 14 (1) child and family counselors;
- 15 (2) child development experts;
- 16 (3) community-based nonprofit organization leaders
- 17 who work to promote healthy marriages and parenting;
- 18 (4) published researchers in the subjects of marriage,
- 19 parenting, and the benefits of strong and stable families in
- 20 society; and
- 21 (5) members of the clergy.

22 (c) The governor shall appoint one member of the commission
23 to serve as the commission's presiding officer.

24 SECTION 5. MEETINGS. (a) The commission shall meet at the
25 call of the commission's presiding officer.

26 (b) A meeting conducted under this section may be held in
27 person, by telephone, or by other means of communication.

1 (c) All commission meetings shall be open to the public.

2 (d) A member of the commission serves without compensation
3 but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses
4 incurred in performing official duties.

5 SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The Health and Human
6 Services Commission shall provide administrative support services
7 at the request of the commission, including the provision of
8 meeting space and assistance in drafting and compiling the report
9 required by this Act.

10 SECTION 7. DUTIES OF COMMISSION. The commission shall:

11 (1) evaluate existing state laws, rules, and policies
12 and identify those that discourage Texans from marrying and raising
13 children;

14 (2) assess the effectiveness of:

15 (A) state-funded premarital education programs
16 and other initiatives promoting marriage; and

17 (B) state-funded programs in encouraging family
18 formation and helping parents develop and apply successful
19 parenting skills and techniques; and

20 (3) make recommendations to the legislature
21 regarding:

22 (A) necessary changes to state laws, rules, and
23 policies that are identified as being detrimental to the promotion
24 of lasting marriages, family formation, and child rearing; and

25 (B) policies, programs, and strategies to:

26 (i) support and increase the formation of
27 strong, lasting marriages and healthy family connections; and

1 (ii) reduce the incidence of divorce and
2 family dissolution.

3 SECTION 8. APPOINTMENT. Not later than the 60th day after
4 the effective date of this Act, the appropriate appointing
5 authority shall appoint the members of the commission as required
6 by this Act.

7 SECTION 9. REPORT. Not later than November 1, 2026, the
8 commission shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
9 the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the
10 legislature a written report that includes a summary of the
11 commission's findings and any legislative recommendations.

12 SECTION 10. EXPIRATION. The commission is abolished and
13 this Act expires December 31, 2026.

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