

By: Schoolcraft

H.B. No. 3802

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 commissioner of the Texas Workforce Commission;

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

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

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

8 (2) a representative from the Department of State
9 Health Services appointed by the governor;

10 (3) representatives from the Texas Early Learning
11 Council designated by the steering committee described by
12 Subsection (a); and

13 (4) individuals with knowledge of or experience with
14 early childhood education and care, including business and
15 community leaders, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and
16 other relevant stakeholders, appointed by the governor.

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

18 (d) To the extent of a conflict with this chapter, Chapter
19 2110 does not apply to the task force.

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

21 (1) examine governance and operational challenges in
22 the early childhood education and care system, including federal
23 and local child-care programs and regulations governing those
24 programs;

25 (2) conduct a comprehensive review of the existing
26 functions and responsibilities of the Health and Human Services
27 Commission, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission

1 related to early childhood education and care;

2 (3) assess the need for a large-scale redesign of the
3 administration of early childhood programs to improve service
4 delivery, quality of care, and the efficient use of funding;

5 (4) align goals and metrics of the Health and Human
6 Services Commission, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce
7 Commission to measure progress, including aligning statewide data
8 systems; and

9 (5) require the Health and Human Services Commission,
10 Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission to complete
11 periodic progress reports and regularly refine statewide goals and
12 strategic plans to ensure alignment with evolving early childhood
13 education and care needs and collaboration with the Texas Early
14 Learning Council.

15 (b) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the
16 purpose, the Texas Education Agency shall pay the costs of data
17 system integration, research, and administration for the task
18 force.

19 Sec. 455.005. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2026, the
20 task force shall develop and submit to the legislature policy and
21 budget recommendations designed to improve early childhood
22 education and care governance that will lead to increased
23 affordable child care capacity and improved kindergarten
24 readiness.

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

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.