

By: White

H.B. No. 507

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a task force to coordinate and make recommendations on parent engagement and education programs provided by state agencies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L-1. TASK FORCE ON PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 531.431. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "task force," unless the context requires otherwise, means the task force on parent engagement and education programs established under Section 531.432.

Sec. 531.432. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE. The task force on parent engagement and education programs is established to:

(1) enhance coordination of parent engagement and evidence-based parent education programs across state agencies;
and

(2) develop comprehensive, statewide best practices for engaging parents as their children's first and best teachers.

Sec. 531.433. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. The task force is composed of 11 members as follows:

(1) the executive commissioner;

(2) the commissioner of the Department of Family and

1 Protective Services;

2 (3) the executive director of the Texas Workforce
3 Commission;

4 (4) the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency;

5 (5) the executive director of the Texas Department of
6 Criminal Justice;

7 (6) the executive director of the Texas Juvenile
8 Justice Department;

9 (7) one representative of the Hurricane Harvey Task
10 Force on School Mental Health Supports appointed by the governor
11 or, if the task force described by this subdivision does not exist,
12 one person appointed by the governor who has experience in the
13 mental health field;

14 (8) one representative of a county juvenile board or
15 juvenile probation department appointed by the presiding officer of
16 the task force;

17 (9) one representative of a faith-based organization
18 appointed by the presiding officer of the task force;

19 (10) one person appointed by the presiding officer of
20 the task force who has experienced challenges meant to be addressed
21 by a parent engagement or education program; and

22 (11) one representative of the law enforcement
23 community appointed by the presiding officer of the task force.

24 Sec. 531.434. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive
25 commissioner shall serve as presiding officer.

26 Sec. 531.435. VACANCY. A vacancy for an appointed member of
27 the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original

1 appointment.

2 Sec. 531.436. MEETINGS. The task force shall meet at least
3 quarterly at the call of the presiding officer. The task force
4 shall meet at other times as determined by the presiding officer.

5 Sec. 531.437. DUTIES. The task force shall:

6 (1) receive reports and testimony from individuals,
7 state and local governmental agencies, community-based
8 organizations, and other public and private organizations
9 regarding parent engagement and evidence-based parent education
10 programs;

11 (2) identify parent engagement and evidence-based
12 parent education programs that are being implemented in this state
13 and describe opportunities for improved coordination among those
14 programs to:

15 (A) maximize the programs' effectiveness and
16 funding; and

17 (B) align program outcomes; and

18 (3) develop policy and other recommendations for:

19 (A) expanding access to parent engagement and
20 evidence-based parent education programs;

21 (B) establishing comprehensive statewide best
22 practice guidelines for those programs; and

23 (C) establishing methods for using existing
24 administrative and program data to identify and target program
25 services to:

26 (i) appropriate parents in this state;

27 (ii) communities with the greatest need for

1 the program services; and

2 (iii) families exhibiting high levels of
3 risk factors, which include a preterm birth, poverty, having low
4 parent educational attainment, having one or more teenage parents,
5 having poor maternal health, and having parent unemployment or
6 underemployment.

7 Sec. 531.438. REPORT. (a) The task force shall prepare a
8 report that includes:

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

10 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
11 force, including recommendations described by Section 531.437(3);
12 and

13 (3) proposed legislation or recommendations or
14 information on any other relevant matter that the task force
15 considers appropriate.

16 (b) Not later than December 1, 2020, the task force shall
17 submit the report prepared under this section to the governor, the
18 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
19 and the presiding officers of the standing committees of the senate
20 and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over
21 issues relating to parent engagement and education.

22 Sec. 531.439. RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMISSION. The commission
23 shall provide reasonably necessary administrative and technical
24 support to the task force.

25 Sec. 531.440. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. Appointed
26 members of the task force serve without compensation and may not be
27 reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting

1 the business of the task force.

2 Sec. 531.441. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110
3 does not apply to the task force.

4 Sec. 531.442. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The commission
5 may accept on behalf of the task force a gift, grant, or donation
6 from any source to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

7 Sec. 531.443. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and
8 this subchapter expires September 1, 2021.

9 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
10 of this Act, the governor and the executive commissioner of the
11 Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint the members of
12 the task force on parent engagement and education programs as
13 required by Section 531.433, Government Code, as added by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.