

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 2315  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2023; March 22, 2023, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Finance; April 4, 2023,  
 1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 16, Nays 1;  
 1-5 April 4, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			
1-22		X		
1-23	X			
1-24	X			

1-25 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-26 AN ACT

1-27 relating to the creation of a task force to develop a plan for the  
 1-28 consolidation of the functions of workforce development programs  
 1-29 administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services  
 1-30 programs administered by the Health and Human Services Commission.

1-31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-32 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the  
 1-33 creation of a task force to develop a plan for the consolidation of  
 1-34 workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce  
 1-35 Commission and social services programs administered by the Health  
 1-36 and Human Services Commission. Though federal law and guidance  
 1-37 currently restricts the consolidation of these federally funded  
 1-38 services, the United States Congress is considering legislation to  
 1-39 reverse the federal restrictions and allow states to consolidate  
 1-40 these functions. This Act would provide an opportunity for Texas to  
 1-41 implement a consolidation plan, if and when federal law allows.

1-42 SECTION 2. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by  
 1-43 adding Chapter 319 to read as follows:

1-44 CHAPTER 319. TASK FORCE ON CONSOLIDATION OF WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL  
 1-45 SERVICES

1-46 Sec. 319.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "task force"  
 1-47 means the task force established under this chapter to develop a  
 1-48 plan for the consolidation of workforce development and social  
 1-49 services programs in this state.

1-50 Sec. 319.002. TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP; COMPENSATION. (a)  
 1-51 The task force consists of:

- 1-52 (1) three members appointed by the governor;
- 1-53 (2) three members appointed by the lieutenant  
 1-54 governor; and
- 1-55 (3) three members appointed by the speaker of the  
 1-56 house of representatives.

1-57 (b) A vacancy on the task force must be filled in the same  
 1-58 manner as the original appointment.

1-59 (c) Members of the task force serve without compensation or  
 1-60 reimbursement for expenses.

1-61 Sec. 319.003. TASK FORCE DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

2-1 (1) develop a plan for best courses of action and a  
2-2 regulatory framework for the consolidation of workforce  
2-3 development programs administered by the commission and social  
2-4 services programs administered by the Health and Human Services  
2-5 Commission; and

2-6 (2) make recommendations to the legislature regarding  
2-7 the consolidation of programs described by Subdivision (1).

2-8 (b) The consolidation plan developed by the task force must:

2-9 (1) examine all state resources, including financial,  
2-10 manpower, and technology resources, to determine if those resources  
2-11 are being used effectively and efficiently to achieve the desired  
2-12 outcomes for recipients of the workforce development and social  
2-13 services programs and for the purposes of the programs' intended  
2-14 goals;

2-15 (2) identify opportunities for cost savings or  
2-16 reallocations of resources to improve the effectiveness of the  
2-17 programs by streamlining essential functions and eliminating  
2-18 duplicative efforts;

2-19 (3) be designed to improve the delivery of the  
2-20 programs by ensuring that applicants for and recipients of the  
2-21 services provided are better served by having access to a single  
2-22 point of contact case manager for all services sought or received;  
2-23 and

2-24 (4) identify the changes to federal law that would be  
2-25 necessary to implement the consolidation plan.

2-26 Sec. 319.004. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The commission and  
2-27 the Health and Human Services Commission shall provide staff and  
2-28 administrative support as necessary to enable the task force to  
2-29 carry out its duties under this chapter, including by providing:

2-30 (1) meeting space;

2-31 (2) staff to assist the task force in conducting  
2-32 research and drafting the consolidation plan and related materials;  
2-33 and

2-34 (3) funding available from existing resources  
2-35 appropriated to the commission or the Health and Human Services  
2-36 Commission to pay for costs associated with the task force's  
2-37 functions.

2-38 Sec. 319.005. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than  
2-39 December 31, 2024, the task force shall prepare and submit to the  
2-40 legislature a report that includes:

2-41 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;

2-42 (2) the consolidation plan developed by the task  
2-43 force; and

2-44 (3) the findings and recommendations of the task  
2-45 force.

2-46 Sec. 319.006. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
2-47 this chapter expires September 1, 2025.

2-48 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2024, the governor, the  
2-49 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
2-50 representatives shall appoint the members of the task force as  
2-51 required by Section 319.002, Labor Code, as added by this Act.

2-52 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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