

1-1 By: Schoolcraft (Senate Sponsor - Campbell) H.B. No. 117
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 22, 2025;
1-3 May 21, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Economic
1-4 Development; May 25, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 3, Nays 2; May 25, 2025, 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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to the establishment of the governor's task force on the
1-16 governance of early childhood education and care.

1-17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-18 SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
1-19 by adding Chapter 455 to read as follows:

1-20 CHAPTER 455. GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON GOVERNANCE OF EARLY
1-21 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

1-22 Sec. 455.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "task force"
1-23 means the governor's task force on the governance of early
1-24 childhood education and care established under this chapter.

1-25 Sec. 455.002. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The governor's task
1-26 force on the governance of early childhood education and care is
1-27 established to address the governance and operational challenges of
1-28 the early childhood education system in this state.

1-29 (b) The task force is administratively attached to the Texas
1-30 Education Agency.

1-31 Sec. 455.003. MEMBERS. (a) The task force shall include a
1-32 steering committee composed of the following members:

1-33 (1) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
1-34 Services Commission;

1-35 (2) the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency;

1-36 (3) the chair of the Texas Workforce Commission;

1-37 (4) relevant division directors designated by the
1-38 individuals described by Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3); and

1-39 (5) the Texas Education Agency's inter-agency deputy
1-40 director of early childhood support.

1-41 (b) The task force is composed of the following members:

1-42 (1) one public school teacher certified to teach
1-43 prekindergarten;

1-44 (2) one certified teacher who is employed by a private
1-45 child-care facility or prekindergarten program;

1-46 (3) a representative from the Texas Head Start State
1-47 Collaboration Office appointed by the governor;

1-48 (4) a representative from the Department of State
1-49 Health Services appointed by the governor;

1-50 (5) two representatives from the Texas Early Learning
1-51 Council designated by the steering committee described by
1-52 Subsection (a); and

1-53 (6) at least two but not more than five individuals
1-54 with knowledge of early childhood education and care or experience
1-55 as a direct operator of an early childhood education and care
1-56 program, including business and community leaders, representatives
1-57 of nonprofit organizations, and other relevant stakeholders,
1-58 appointed by the governor.

1-59 (c) The governor shall appoint the chair of the task force.

1-60 (d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the size, composition, or
1-61 duration of the task force.

2-1 Sec. 455.004. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:
 2-2 (1) examine governance and operational challenges in
 2-3 the early childhood education and care system, including federal
 2-4 and local child-care programs and regulations governing those
 2-5 programs;
 2-6 (2) with a focus on improving government efficiency,
 2-7 conduct a comprehensive review of the existing functions and
 2-8 responsibilities of the Health and Human Services Commission, Texas
 2-9 Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission related to early
 2-10 childhood education and care; and
 2-11 (3) consider methods for a large-scale redesign of the
 2-12 administration of early childhood programs to improve efficiency,
 2-13 service delivery, quality of care, and the efficient use of
 2-14 funding.

2-15 (b) The steering committee of the task force shall:
 2-16 (1) align goals and metrics of the Health and Human
 2-17 Services Commission, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce
 2-18 Commission to measure progress, including aligning statewide data
 2-19 systems; and
 2-20 (2) require the Health and Human Services Commission,
 2-21 Texas Education Agency, and Texas Workforce Commission to complete
 2-22 and submit to the task force periodic progress reports and
 2-23 regularly refine statewide goals and strategic plans to ensure
 2-24 alignment with evolving early childhood education and care needs.

2-25 (c) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the
 2-26 purpose, the Texas Education Agency shall pay the costs of data
 2-27 system integration, research, and administration for the task
 2-28 force.

2-29 Sec. 455.005. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2026, the
 2-30 task force shall develop and submit to the legislature policy and
 2-31 budget recommendations designed to improve early childhood
 2-32 education and care governance that will:

2-33 (1) facilitate and improve early childhood education
 2-34 and care participant engagement with state agencies; and
 2-35 (2) lead to improved operational efficiency,
 2-36 increased affordable child care capacity, and improved
 2-37 kindergarten readiness.

2-38 Sec. 455.006. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and
 2-39 this chapter expires September 1, 2027.

2-40 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-41 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-42 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-43 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-44 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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