



Open Government Compliance

Mack Harrison, J.D.

March 9, 2016

Department of State Health Services

-
- Executive Order No. RP-79
 - Issued October 6, 2014
 - House Bill 2950
 - Effective June 19, 2015

-
- Advisory panel to Governor
 - Members appointed by Governor

-
- Recommendations for response to infectious diseases
 - Health and Safety Code, § 81.403(b)(1)
 - Reliable and transparent source of information for Texas
 - Health and Safety Code, § 81.403(b)(2)

- Open Meetings Act
 - Government Code, Chapter 551
- Public Information Act
 - Government Code, Chapter 552
- Specific language in HB 2950
 - Health and Safety Code, § 81.406

-
- Notice required
 - Must have quorum
 - May meet via telephone

-
- Must stick to agenda
 - May hold public hearings
 - Must try to meet in various parts of Texas

-
- Matters confidential by law
 - Public security or law enforcement needs
 - Otherwise comply with Act

Public Information Act

- Any information relating to the task force is public
- Exceptions to disclosure apply

Public Information Act

- Request triggers deadlines
- Penalties for ignoring

- Required by state law
 - One time only
 - Within 90 days of appointment
- Video presentations available
 - Texasattorneygeneral.gov
 - DVD

- Open meetings training
 - Required
- Open records training
 - May delegate