

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a task force of border health officials.

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

4 SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is
5 amended by adding Chapter 120 to read as follows:

6 CHAPTER 120. TASK FORCE OF BORDER HEALTH OFFICIALS

7 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

8 Sec. 120.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

9 (1) "Border region" means the area consisting of the
10 counties immediately adjacent to the international boundary
11 between the United States and Mexico.

12 (2) "Task force" means the Task Force of Border Health
13 Officials.

14 Sec. 120.002. SUNSET PROVISION. The task force is subject
15 to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless
16 continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the task force
17 is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2029.

18 SUBCHAPTER B. POWERS AND DUTIES

19 Sec. 120.051. TASK FORCE; DUTIES. (a) The department
20 shall establish the Task Force of Border Health Officials to advise
21 the commissioner:

22 (1) on policy priorities addressing major issues
23 affecting the border region residents' health and health
24 conditions;

- 1 (2) on raising public awareness of the issues
2 described by Subdivision (1); and
- 3 (3) on other health issues impacting the border region
4 as determined by the commissioner, including:
- 5 (A) barriers to accessing health care;
6 (B) health problems affecting the region,
7 including:
- 8 (i) diabetes;
9 (ii) infant mortality;
10 (iii) heart disease and stroke;
11 (iv) obesity;
12 (v) cervical cancer; and
13 (vi) communicable diseases, including
14 tuberculosis;
- 15 (C) factors that impede access to health care,
16 including:
- 17 (i) socioeconomic conditions;
18 (ii) linguistic and cultural barriers;
19 (iii) low population density; and
20 (iv) lack of health insurance;
- 21 (D) surveillance and tracking of communicable
22 diseases, environmental factors, and other factors negatively
23 influencing health;
- 24 (E) standardization of data to ensure
25 compatibility with data collected by border states on both sides of
26 the international border with Mexico;
- 27 (F) public health infrastructure that includes

1 education and research institutions to train culturally competent
2 health care providers;

3 (G) establishment of local and regional public
4 health programs that build on local resources and maximize the use
5 of public dollars to address the needs of the indigent population;
6 and

7 (H) collaboration and cooperation with Mexican
8 counterparts of the task force at the state and federal level, and
9 collaboration with federal counterparts in the United States.

10 (b) The task force shall study and make recommendations
11 relating to the health problems, conditions, challenges, and needs
12 of the population in the border region.

13 (c) The task force shall submit a report of recommendations
14 to the commissioner for short-term and long-term border plans, as
15 described by Subchapter C, not later than November 1 of each
16 even-numbered year.

17 Sec. 120.052. COLLABORATION WITH OFFICE OF BORDER HEALTH.
18 The Office of Border Health established under Section 12.071 shall
19 provide staff support to the task force and any other assistance as
20 needed or required by the task force, if practicable.

21 Sec. 120.053. COMPOSITION; TERMS. (a) The task force is
22 composed of:

23 (1) the health department directors appointed under
24 Section 121.033 from:

25 (A) each county in the border region; and

26 (B) each municipality in the border region that
27 has a sister city in Mexico;

1 (2) two ex officio nonvoting members who are members
2 of the legislature:

3 (A) one of whom is appointed by the lieutenant
4 governor; and

5 (B) one of whom is appointed by the speaker of the
6 house of representatives; and

7 (3) additional members appointed by the commissioner.

8 (b) The commissioner shall designate a chair and vice chair
9 of the task force from among the task force members.

10 (c) The members appointed by the lieutenant governor and the
11 speaker of the house of representatives serve three-year terms.

12 Sec. 120.054. MEETINGS. (a) The task force shall meet at
13 least quarterly each fiscal year. Members may hold meetings by
14 conference calls and through videoconference in accordance with
15 Section 551.127, Government Code.

16 (b) Section 551.125, Government Code, applies to a meeting
17 held by conference call under this section, except that Section
18 551.125(b), Government Code, does not apply.

19 Sec. 120.055. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A task force
20 member is not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for
21 expenses incurred in performing the member's duties.

22 SUBCHAPTER C. BORDER HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

23 Sec. 120.101. SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM PLANS. (a) The
24 task force shall make recommendations to the commissioner for
25 short-term and long-term border health improvement plans. The
26 short-term plan shall identify health objectives proposed to be
27 accomplished before the fourth anniversary of the date the plan is

1 adopted. The long-term plan shall identify health objectives
2 proposed to be accomplished before the ninth anniversary of the
3 date the plan is adopted.

4 (b) The commissioner shall review the task force's
5 recommendations and, based on those recommendations, recommend
6 short-term and long-term border health improvement plans to the
7 executive commissioner, identifying specific health objectives
8 that may be implemented under existing law.

9 (c) The executive commissioner shall adopt short-term and
10 long-term border health improvement plans and direct the department
11 to implement the portions of the plans that may be implemented
12 within existing appropriations under existing law.

13 (d) Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year,
14 the executive commissioner shall submit a report detailing the
15 actions taken by the task force. The report must include:

16 (1) the status of all projects and activities
17 involving the health issues described under Section 120.051(a)(3);

18 (2) the funding for the expenditures; and

19 (3) recommendations for legislation necessary to
20 implement the short-term and long-term border health improvement
21 plans.

22 Sec. 120.102. APPLICATION OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110,
23 Government Code, does not apply to the task force.

24 Sec. 120.103. ASSISTANCE FROM STATE AGENCIES AND POLITICAL
25 SUBDIVISIONS. At the request of the task force, a state agency or
26 political subdivision of this state may cooperate with the task
27 force to the greatest extent practicable to fully implement the

1 task force's statutory duties.

2 SECTION 2. (a) The commissioner of state health services,
3 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
4 shall appoint the members of the Task Force of Border Health
5 Officials established by this Act not later than October 1, 2017.

6 (b) The initial short-term border health improvement plan
7 adopted under Section 120.101, Health and Safety Code, as added by
8 this Act, must include a border health improvement plan for
9 implementation beginning not later than September 1, 2018. The
10 Department of State Health Services shall implement the initiatives
11 in the short-term border health improvement plan, as directed by
12 the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services
13 Commission, not later than September 1, 2022.

14 (c) The initial long-term border health improvement plan
15 adopted under Section 120.101, Health and Safety Code, as added by
16 this Act, must include a border health improvement plan for
17 implementation beginning not later than September 1, 2020. The
18 Department of State Health Services shall implement the initiatives
19 in the long-term border health improvement plan, as directed by the
20 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission,
21 not later than September 1, 2027.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1680 passed the Senate on May 3, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1680 passed the House on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 73, Nays 70, three present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor