

- SUBJECT:** Creating the Task Force on Parent Engagement and Education Programs
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Dutton, Murr, Bowers, Calanni, Cyrier, Dean, Shine, Talarico
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Julie Morris, Children at Risk; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Claire Bocchini, Erica Ding, Marc Robinson, Melinda Soeung, and Alyssa Thomason, Doctors for Change; Ron Quiros, Guadalupe County Juvenile Services; Lindsay Lanagan, Legacy Community Health; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor's Office; Eric Kunish, National Alliance on Mental Illness Austin; Alissa Sughrue, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas; Kathryn Freeman, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission; Michael Barba, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Jose Flores, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; Lauren Rose, Texas Network of Youth Services; Jennifer Lucy, TexProtects; and six individuals)

Against — None
- DIGEST:** CSHB 507 would establish a two-year task force composed of area experts and other stakeholders to enhance the coordination of parent engagement and evidence-based parent education programs across state agencies and to develop comprehensive statewide best practices for engaging parents as their children's first and best teachers.
- Duties.** The task force would:
- receive reports and testimony from individuals, state and local governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations regarding parent engagement and evidence-based parent education programs;
 - identify existing parent engagement and evidence-based parent

education programs and ways to maximize their effectiveness and funding and align their program outcomes; and

- develop policy and other recommendations to expand access to parent engagement and evidence-based parent education programs, establish comprehensive statewide best practices for such programs, and establish ways to use existing data to target services to appropriate stakeholders.

Composition. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would serve as the presiding officer of the task force and join 12 other members, including:

- the commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services;
- the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission;
- the commissioner of the Texas Education Agency;
- the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- the executive director of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department;
- one representative of the Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health Supports appointed by the governor, or, if that task force did not exist, one person appointed by the governor who had experience in the mental health field;
- one representative of a county juvenile board or juvenile probation department appointed by the presiding officer;
- one representative of a faith-based organization appointed by the presiding officer;
- one person appointed by the presiding officer who had experienced challenges meant to be addressed by a parent engagement or education program;
- one representative of the law enforcement community appointed by the presiding officer; and
- two people appointed by the presiding officer, each of whom would be a parent of or person standing in parental relation to a school-age child.

The task force would be required to meet at least once per quarter, at the discretion of the presiding officer, or at any time a meeting was called by the presiding officer. Appointed members of the task force would not receive compensation and could not be reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting the business of the task force. Any vacancies would be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Support and funding. HHSC would be required to provide reasonably necessary administrative and technical support to the task force. HHSC could accept, on behalf of the task force, a gift, grant, or donation from any source to carry out the task force's duties.

Deadlines. The task force would submit a report by December 1, 2020, with its activities, findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and the presiding officers of the Legislature's standing committees with primary jurisdiction over parent engagement and education issues. The task force would be abolished on September 1, 2021.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.