

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1946

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a family violence criminal homicide prevention task force.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 772.0065 to read as follows:

Sec. 772.0065. FAMILY VIOLENCE CRIMINAL HOMICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Criminal homicide" means an offense under Chapter 19, Penal Code.

(2) "Family violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.004, Family Code.

(3) "Steering committee" means the steering committee of the Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force established by Subsection (c).

(4) "Task force" means the Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force established by this section.

(b) The governor shall establish the Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force within the criminal justice division established under Section 772.006.

(c) The task force shall include a steering committee composed of the following members:

(1) the governor or the governor's designee; and

(2) the chief executive officer of a statewide family

1 violence advocacy organization or the chief executive officer's
2 designee.

3 (d) The task force is composed of the following members
4 appointed by the steering committee:

5 (1) four representatives who are employees or
6 contractors of a family violence center, as defined by Section
7 51.002, Human Resources Code, from different regions across the
8 state, representing both rural and urban areas;

9 (2) two representatives of a statewide family violence
10 advocacy organization;

11 (3) one representative from an organization that
12 operates statewide and provides legal services to victims of family
13 violence;

14 (4) one representative from each state agency that has
15 duties relating to the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of
16 family violence or that provides services to survivors of family
17 violence, including:

18 (A) the office of the attorney general;

19 (B) the Health and Human Services Commission;

20 (C) the Office of Court Administration;

21 (D) the Department of State Health Services; and

22 (E) the Department of Family and Protective
23 Services;

24 (5) one representative from the family violence
25 program operated by the Health and Human Services Commission;

26 (6) one representative from the Center for Violence
27 Prevention at The University of Texas Health Science Center at

1 Houston;

2 (7) the president of the Texas District and County
3 Attorneys Association or the president's designee;

4 (8) the executive director of the Texas Municipal
5 Police Association or the executive director's designee;

6 (9) the executive director of the Texas Commission on
7 Law Enforcement or the executive director's designee;

8 (10) one representative of the Texas Violent Death
9 Reporting System;

10 (11) one representative from a domestic violence high
11 risk team described by Section [402.039](#);

12 (12) two survivors of family violence; and

13 (13) additional members as considered appropriate by
14 the steering committee.

15 (e) An appointed member serves at the pleasure of the
16 steering committee.

17 (f) The governor shall designate one member of the task
18 force to serve as the presiding officer.

19 (g) The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding
20 officer.

21 (h) The task force shall use any available federal or state
22 funding for the purposes of this section.

23 (i) The steering committee may establish one or more working
24 groups, composed of members of the task force, to focus on specific
25 issues regarding the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of
26 family violence criminal homicide.

27 (j) The task force shall:

1 (1) analyze the top risk factors that may lead to
2 family violence criminal homicide;

3 (2) advise and provide resources to state agencies and
4 nonprofit organizations to develop and improve training for
5 professionals who interact with survivors of family violence;

6 (3) collect, analyze, and make publicly available
7 information, organized by region, regarding:

8 (A) the prevention, investigation, and
9 prosecution of family violence criminal homicide and other family
10 violence offenses; and

11 (B) services provided to family violence
12 survivors, including a list of family violence advocacy
13 organizations; and

14 (4) develop policy recommendations to assist the state
15 in:

16 (A) effectively coordinating services to family
17 violence survivors and funding to organizations that provide
18 services to survivors; and

19 (B) more effectively preventing, investigating,
20 and prosecuting incidents of family violence criminal homicide.

21 (k) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
22 task force.

23 (l) A task force member who is not employed by a state agency
24 or an individual invited by the presiding officer to participate in
25 a scheduled task force meeting is entitled to:

26 (1) a per diem in the amount provided by the General
27 Appropriations Act for each day the member performs duties as a task

1 force member or the individual attends a task force meeting; and

2 (2) reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses
3 incurred in performing duties as a member or participant of the task
4 force, as applicable.

5 (m) Not later than December 1, 2026, the task force shall
6 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of
7 the house of representatives a written report containing the task
8 force's findings and recommendations for legislative or other
9 action.

10 (n) The task force is abolished and this section expires
11 January 1, 2028.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.