

**SUBJECT:** Establishing a task force to study consolidation of certain programs

**COMMITTEE:** International Relations & Economic Development — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 5 ayes — Button, Bumgarner, Clardy, Hayes, Shine  
0 nays  
4 absent — Ordaz Meza, Morales, Plesa

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage (April 24) — 29 - 01

**WITNESSES:** For — Rod Bordelon, Texas Public Policy Foundation (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jennifer Carter, Goodwill Central Texas)  
  
Against — Amanda Posson, Every Texan (*Registered, but did not testify*: Leonard Aguilar, Texas AFL-CIO)  
  
On — Renzo Soto, Texas 2036; Courtney Arbour, Texas Workforce Commission (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michael Britt, Texas Workforce Commission)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested creating an implementation plan for the consolidation of certain social and workforce development services could decrease costs and increase efficiency in the event that federal law allows for such consolidation in the future.

**DIGEST:** SB 2315 would establish a task force to develop a plan for the consolidation of certain state workforce development and social services programs.  
  
The task force would be required to develop a plan for best courses of action and a regulatory framework for the consolidation of workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and social services programs administered by the Health and

Human Services Commission (HHSC), and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the consolidation of these programs.

The task force would consist of three members appointed by the governor, three members appointed by the lieutenant governor, and three members appointed by the speaker of the House. A vacancy in the task force would be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The members of the task force would serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

The consolidation plan developed by the task force would have to:

- examine all state resources to determine if those resources are being used effectively and efficiently to achieve the desired outcomes and purposes of the programs' intended goals;
- identify opportunities for cost savings or reallocations of resources to improve the effectiveness of the programs;
- be designed to improve the delivery of the programs by ensuring that applicants for and recipients of the services provided are better served by having access to a single point of contact for all services sought or received; and
- identify the changes to federal law that would be necessary to implement the consolidation plan.

TWC and HHSC would be required to provide staff and administrative support as necessary to enable the task force to carry out the bill. By December 31, 2024, the task force would be required to prepare and submit to the Legislature a report that would include a description of its activities, consolidation plan, and findings and recommendations.

By January 1, 2024, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House would be required to appoint the members of the task force. The task force would expire on September 1, 2025.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.