House Bill 492
Effective: 5-30-09
House Author: Zerwas et al.
Senate Sponsor: Deuell et al.

House Bill 492 amends the Government Code to expand the faith- and community-based health and human services and social services initiatives. The bill requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in consultation with the governor, to designate by December 1, 2009, one employee from the commission and from each health and human services agency to serve as a governmental liaison for faith- and community-based organizations and requires the chief administrative officer of each agency specified in the bill, in consultation with the governor, to designate by the same date an employee from the agency to serve as such a liaison. The bill sets forth the general duties of a faith- and community-based organizations liaison and establishes an interagency coordinating group composed of each designated liaison. House Bill 492 creates the renewing our communities account in the general revenue fund to increase the capacity of certain nonprofit organizations, to assist in the promotion of local faith- and community-based initiatives, and to foster partnerships between state government and certain nonprofit organizations. The bill sets forth the powers and duties of HHSC and the State Commission on National and Community Service regarding the account and provides requirements relating to the administration of account funds. The bill directs the executive commissioner of HHSC to appoint a renewing our communities account advisory committee and a task force on strengthening nonprofit capacity.

House Bill 1965
Effective: 6-17-11
House Author: Kolkhorst et al.
Senate Sponsor: Deuell

House Bill 1965 amends Government Code provisions relating to faith- and community-based health and human services initiatives to expand the agencies required to have a liaison for faith- and community-based organizations to include the office of the governor, the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Department of Insurance, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the office of the attorney general, the Department of Agriculture, the office of the comptroller of public accounts, the Department of Information Resources, the Office of State-Federal Relations, the office of the secretary of state, and certain institutions of higher education. The bill provides for the administrative support, presiding officer, and reporting requirements of the interagency coordinating group for faith- and community-based initiatives, which is composed of such liaisons.

House Bill 1965 establishes the interagency coordinating group task force to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out certain duties and provides for the task force's administrative support and duties, including preparing a legislative report. Provisions relating to the task force expire September 1, 2013.
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT
relating to the creation of the Texas Nonprofit Council to assist with faith- and community-based initiatives.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
SECTION 1. Section 535.055, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:
Sec. 535.055. TEXAS NONPROFIT COUNCIL [TASK FORCE ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NONPROFITS]. (a) The Texas Nonprofit Council [interagency coordinating group task force] is established to help direct the interagency coordinating group in carrying out the group's duties under this section. The commission shall provide administrative support to the council [task force].
(b) The executive commissioner, in consultation with the presiding officer of the interagency coordinating group, shall appoint as members of the council two representatives [task force one representative] from each of the following groups and entities:
(1) [a] statewide nonprofit organizations [organization];
(2) local governments;
(3) faith-based groups;
(4) community-based groups;
(5) consultants to nonprofit corporations; and
(6) [experts in grant writing; and
(7) [a] statewide associations [association] of nonprofit organizations.
(c) The council [In addition to the interagency coordinating group's other duties, the interagency coordinating group], in coordination with the interagency coordinating group [task force], shall:
(1) make recommendations [develop and implement a plan] for improving contracting relationships between state agencies and faith- and community-based organizations;
(2) develop best practices for cooperating and collaborating with faith- and community-based organizations;
(3) identify and address duplication of services provided by the state and faith- and community-based organizations; and
(4) identify and address gaps in state services that faith- and community-based organizations could fill.
(c-1) The council shall elect a chair or chairs and secretary from among its members and shall assist the executive commissioner in identifying individuals to fill vacant council positions that arise.
(c-2) Council members serve three-year terms. The terms expire on October 1 of every third year. A council member shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.
(d) The council [task force] shall prepare a biennial report
detailing the council’s work, including describing actions taken or not taken by the interagency coordinating group under this section and include in the report any recommendations relating to legislation necessary to address an issue identified by the group under this section. The council [task force] shall present the report to the House Committee on Human Services or its successor, the House Committee on Public Health or its successor, and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or its successor not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year [September 1, 2012].

(e) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the Texas Nonprofit Council. [This section expires September 1, 2013.]

SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2013, and by October 1 every three years thereafter, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall appoint members to the Texas Nonprofit Council in accordance with Section 535.055, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect August 31, 2013.