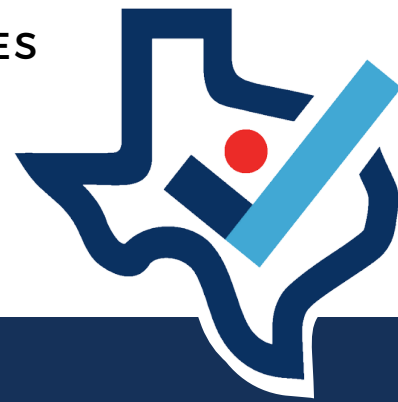


# House Bill (HB) 788

Rep. Terry Meza



## Legal Access for People with Disabilities

HB 788 would require the establishment of a task force to study the availability of legal services for people with disabilities, as well as the barriers to accessing them. The task force would submit a written report, including recommendations, to state leaders no later than Dec. 1, 2024.



People with disabilities often face medical, communication, financial, discriminatory, and cognitive barriers to accessing legal services. Entities set up to provide assistance, such as legal aid, are overwhelmed by the number of requests.



The bill would authorize the task force to develop instructional and training materials for legal professionals and persons with disabilities, as well as partner with other organizations in supporting persons with disabilities.



In 2019, similar legislation was supported by NAMI Texas, the Autism Society of Texas, NASW – Texas Chapter, Texas Advocates, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, and others.



*"As a legal professional, I understand how important it is to provide proper legal counsel to all persons, especially those who are consistently marginalized. This task force would give us the information we need to identify the gaps in the current legal services in our state for those with disabilities."*

Rep. Terry Meza

