Open Government Compliance

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Department of State Health Services
Task Force

• Executive Order No. RP-79
  • Issued October 6, 2014

• House Bill 2950
  • Effective June 19, 2015
Task Force

• Advisory panel to Governor
• Members appointed by Governor
Duties

• Recommendations for response to infectious diseases
  • Health and Safety Code, § 81.403(b)(1)

• Reliable and transparent source of information for Texas
  • Health and Safety Code, § 81.403(b)(2)
Open Government

• Open Meetings Act
  • Government Code, Chapter 551

• Public Information Act
  • Government Code, Chapter 552

• Specific language in HB 2950
  • Health and Safety Code, § 81.406
Open Meetings

• Notice required
• Must have quorum
• May meet via telephone
Open Meetings

- Must stick to agenda
- May hold public hearings
- Must try to meet in various parts of Texas
Closed Meetings

- Matters confidential by law
- Public security or law enforcement needs
- Otherwise comply with Act
Public Information Act

- Any information relating to the task force is public
- Exceptions to disclosure apply
Public Information Act

- Request triggers deadlines
- Penalties for ignoring
Open Government Training

• Required by state law
  • One time only
  • Within 90 days of appointment

• Video presentations available
  • Texasattorneygeneral.gov
  • DVD
Open Government Training

- Open meetings training
  - Required
- Open records training
  - May delegate