

Executive Orders

MW-1

Creating and establishing the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Jobs and the Unemployment Trust Fund.

WHEREAS, unemployment in Texas has increased at a time when economic indicators are not favorable; and

WHEREAS, 600,000 Texans are out of work; and

WHEREAS, the leadership of Texas is committed to productive employment for all Texans; and

WHEREAS, the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund was depleted in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Texas has borrowed hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government to pay unemployment benefits and a \$1 billion deficit is projected by the end of 1983 if borrowing continues at the current rate; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the well-being of the State of Texas to immediately address these issues; and

WHEREAS, the governor of Texas is the highest elected official of the state and designated by law as the chief planner of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark White, governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby create and establish the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Jobs and the Unemployment Trust Fund, hereafter referred to as the task force.

The task force will consist of not more than 18 members appointed by the governor to be comprised of bipartisan business, labor, and academic leaders, who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The governor shall designate a chairman and vice-chairman from the membership who shall serve in these positions at the pleasure of the governor. The chairman will establish two groups within the task force to study unemployment and job training and education.

The task force is charged with the following responsibilities:

(a) to immediately develop a plan for the consideration of the governor to set the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund on a course of long-term solvency (Said plan will provide for a gradual increase of the balance of the trust fund);

(b) to investigate mechanisms which could create jobs in Texas through a strengthened business climate to attract new industry and jobs;

(c) to determine whether there are realistic and practical ways to give tax credits to businesses which hire the unemployed;

(d) to determine how Texans can be assured that our universities are preparing students to support a high-technology economy; and

(e) to insure that our community colleges, vocational schools, and high schools are producing students with skills that are marketable in a rapidly changing economy, and not training people for obsolescence.

The groups shall meet regularly at the call of the chairman. A majority of the members of each group shall constitute a quorum. The chairman shall establish the agenda.

Complete written reports shall be made to the governor of the activities and recommendations of the task force as appropriate to meet the assignments given to the task force.

The members of the task force shall serve without compensation and reimbursement for their travel and expense.

The Texas Research League shall serve as the project coordinator for the task force and may enter into such contracts with public accounting firms and/or consultants as may be necessary to validate statistical data to completely review the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and all its ramifications.

All agencies of state and local government are hereby directed to cooperate and assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

This executive order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on January 27, 1983.

TRD-841470

Mark White
Governor of Texas