

SUBJECT: Service conversion opportunity grant program to serve disabled persons

COMMITTEE: Human Services — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Rose, Darby, Elkins, Hernandez, Hughes, Legler, Naishtat, Walle

0 nays

1 absent — Herrero

WITNESSES: For — Norine Jaloway Gill, The Arc of Texas; James Meadours, Advocacy Incorporated; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Susanne Elrod, Texas Council of Community MHMR Centers; Vivecca Hartman; Melanie Knapp; Marty Murrell; Derrick Osobase, Texas State Employees Union; Stephen Schoen)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Two types of employment services available to intellectually and developmentally disabled persons include day habilitation and sheltered workshops. Day habilitation providers assist and supervise planned activities in a non-residential setting to develop social and adaptive life skills, including job coaching, development, and placement, as well as vocational training. A sheltered workshop provides training and employment services for clients with disabilities.

DIGEST: HB 3232 would establish a service conversion opportunity grant program to help sheltered employment service providers in restructuring the way they used financial and staff resources to provide employment services to persons with disabilities in a more integrated, community-based setting and to maximize any funding sources available for that purpose. The bill would define a sheltered employment services provider as a day habilitation service provider or a sheltered workshop under contract with a health and human services agency to provide employment services to persons with disabilities.

The bill would require a sheltered employment service provider to apply to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and to meet

eligibility requirements established by the department. An application would have to contain a plan for the applicant's proposed use of grant funds, including a description of how the provider would use the funds to provide more integrated and community-based employment services. The department would have to consider the anticipated benefits of the grant, the applicant's qualifications, and the feasibility and financial soundness of the applicant's plan.

A grant recipient could use grant funds only to pay for activities directly related to providing integrated and community-based employment services and would not be permitted to use the grant funds to pay fees or for advertising.

The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission would adopt rules to implement these provisions.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

NOTES:

The LBB estimates this bill would require an appropriation of \$1,726,264 in fiscal 2010-11. The House version of SB 1, the general appropriations bill, contains a contingency rider in Art. 11 for \$1,726,264. The Senate version does not contain an appropriation for this bill.