Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 694.002, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c) If a county discovers cash in the possession of a deceased pauper, a county may use the cash to pay the actual costs incurred by the county in disposing of the pauper's body.

(d) If any cash remains after the county has paid the costs of disposing of the body under Subsection (c), the county shall place the cash in trust. A person having a claim to the money in trust must exercise the right to collect the money not later than the first anniversary of the date of disposition of the pauper's body.

(e) A county may create a fund to be used by the county to pay the costs incurred in disposing of the bodies of deceased paupers and administering the county's body disposition activities. If money placed in a trust under Subsection (d) is not claimed by the first anniversary of the date of disposition of the pauper's body, the county may transfer the money to the fund created under this subsection.

SECTION 2. 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 September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on March 19, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 25, 2009: Yeas 143, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 576, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 576.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 576.010. NOTIFICATION OF TRUST EXEMPTION. (a) At the time a patient is admitted to an inpatient mental health facility for voluntary or involuntary inpatient mental health services, the facility shall provide to the patient, and the parent if the patient is a minor or the guardian of the person of the patient, written notice, in the person's primary language, that a trust that qualifies under Section 552.018 is not liable for the patient's support. In addition, the facility shall ensure that, within 24 hours after the patient is admitted to the facility, the notification is explained to the patient:
(1) orally, in simple, nontechnical terms in the patient's primary language, if possible; or

(2) through a means reasonably calculated to communicate with a patient who has an impairment of vision or hearing, if applicable.

(b) Notice required under Subsection (a) must also be attached to any request for payment for the patient's support.

(c) This section applies only to state-operated mental health facilities.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 592, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 592.056 to read as follows:

Sec. 592.056. NOTIFICATION OF TRUST EXEMPTION. (a) At the time a resident is admitted to a residential care facility, the facility shall provide to the resident, and the parent if the resident is a minor or the guardian of the person of the resident, written notice, in the person's primary language, that a trust that qualifies under Section 593.081 is not liable for the resident's support. In addition, the facility shall ensure that, within 24 hours after the resident is admitted to the facility, the notification is explained to the resident, and the parent if the resident is a minor or the guardian of the person of the resident:

(1) orally, in simple, nontechnical terms in the person's primary language, if possible; or

(2) through a means reasonably calculated to communicate with a person who has an impairment of vision or hearing, if applicable.

(b) Notice required under Subsection (a) must also be attached to any request for payment for the resident's support.

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 September 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate on March 23, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 25, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 482

S.B. No. 585

AN ACT

relating to standards of conduct and ethics policies for metropolitan planning organizations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 472.034, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 472.034. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT; ETHICS POLICY. (a) A policy board member or employee of a metropolitan planning organization may not:

(1) accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence the member or employee in the discharge of official duties or that the member or employee knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the member's or employee's official conduct;

(2) accept other employment or engage in a business or professional activity that the member or employee might reasonably expect would require or induce the member or employee to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the official position;

(3) accept other employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair the member's or employee's independence of judgment in the performance of the member's or employee's official duties;

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