

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 775  
By: Nixon  
Health & Human Services  
3-7-97  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, individuals seeking eligibility for assistance and services through a Texas health and human services agency must meet various criteria for eligibility depending on the program, including documentation of resources and income. If a client is unwilling to provide necessary documentation, the agencies deny eligibility; however, agencies rely on promulgated rules instead of statute as a basis for denial of these benefits. This legislation prohibits an agency from providing assistance benefits to a person who fails to provide the necessary documentation in an effort to strengthen the enforcement of eligibility standards.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 775 establishes the eligibility for public assistance benefits administered by health and human services agencies.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531B, Government Code, by adding Section 531.047, as follows:

Sec. 531.047. DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.  
Prohibits a health and human services agency from providing public assistance benefits to a person who fails to provide to the agency a document necessary to determine eligibility for the benefits.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.