

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3488 KKA-D

S.B. 239
By: Ellis
State Affairs
2/8/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, state agencies are responsible for providing services to Texans with disabilities including assistance in the process of obtaining benefits under certain federal social security programs. Registering to receive these benefits can be a confusing, lengthy process. This bill would benefit Texans with disabilities and state agencies responsible for providing services to them, by requiring the agencies to collaborate with contractors who will assist in the identification, and application of benefits for eligible clients.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 239 requires various Texas departments, commissions, and councils to enter into contracts with the goal of gaining benefits for the people served by those organizations. Sets forth guidelines for the assistance provided by the contractors.

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 29A, Education Code, by adding Section 29.015, as follows:

Sec. 29.015. ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME. Authorizes a school district to enter into a contract with certain provisions for a contractor. Authorizes a school district to enter into a new contract between a state agency and a contractor under certain conditions.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 264B, Family Code, by adding Section 264.113, as follows:

Sec. 264.113. ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME. Requires the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) to enter into a contract assisting a child receiving foster care if the child fulfills certain eligibility requirements. Requires the contractor to take certain actions. Authorizes DPRS to comply with Subsection (a) by entering into or participating in an existing contract between a state agency and a contractor under which similar services are provided to the state.

SECTION 3. Amends Chapter 533A, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 533.018, as follows:

Sec. 533.018. FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS. Requires the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TXMHMR) to enter into a contract assisting clients who receive services from certain facilities in applying for federal benefits under certain programs. Requires the TXMHMR to refer clients to the contractor for assistance in establishing eligibility from the programs. Requires the department to target certain areas of this state in the process of identifying the clients to refer. Authorizes the TXMHMR to obtain assistance from the contractor in identifying the clients. Authorizes the TXMHMR to comply with Subsection (a) by various forms of participating in a contract between a state agency and a contractor under which similar services are provided.

SECTION 4. Amends Chapter 614, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 614.019, as follows:

Sec. 614.019. FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS. Requires the Texas Council on Offenders with Mental Impairments (council) to enter into a contract assisting offenders in gaining federal benefits under certain programs. Requires the council to refer offenders to the contractor for assistance in establishing eligibility from the programs. Requires the council to target certain areas of this state in the process of identifying offenders to refer. Authorizes the council to obtain assistance from the contractor in identifying the offenders. Authorizes the council to comply with Subsection (a) by entering into or participating in an existing contract between a state agency and a contractor under which similar services are provided to the state.

SECTION 5. Amends Chapter 141C, Human Resources Code, by adding Section 141.0521, as follows:

Sec. 141.0521. ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME. Requires the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to enter into a contract with certain provisions for a contractor. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 6. Amends Chapter 301D, Labor Code, by adding Section 301.068, as follows:

Sec. 301.068. FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS. Requires the Texas Workforce Commission to enter into a contract with certain provisions for a contractor. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 7. Emergency clause.

Effective date: upon passage.