

1-1 By: Guillen, Guerra, Morales of Maverick H.B. No. 1301
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021;
 1-4 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Local
 1-5 Government; May 21, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-6 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0;
 1-7 May 21, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9				
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15			X	
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18			X	

1-19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1301 By: Menéndez

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to services provided by colonia self-help centers and a
 1-23 study on colonias in this state.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Sections [2306.586](#)(a), (b), (c), and (d),
 1-26 Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-27 (a) The purpose of a self-help center is to assist
 1-28 individuals and families of low income and very low income to
 1-29 finance, refinance, construct, improve, or maintain a safe,
 1-30 suitable home and otherwise improve living conditions in the
 1-31 colonias' designated service area or in another area the department
 1-32 has determined is suitable.

1-33 (b) A self-help center shall set a goal to improve the
 1-34 living conditions of residents in the colonias designated under
 1-35 Section [2306.583](#)(b) [~~[2306.583](#)(a)(2)~~] within a two-year period
 1-36 after a contract is awarded under this subchapter.

1-37 (c) A self-help center may serve individuals and families of
 1-38 low income and very low income by:

1-39 (1) providing assistance in obtaining loans or grants
 1-40 to build a home;

1-41 (2) teaching construction skills necessary to repair
 1-42 or build a home;

1-43 (3) providing model home plans;

1-44 (4) operating a program to rent or provide tools for
 1-45 home construction and improvement for the benefit of property
 1-46 owners in colonias who are building or repairing a residence or
 1-47 installing necessary residential infrastructure;

1-48 (5) helping to obtain, construct, access, or improve
 1-49 the service and utility infrastructure designed to service
 1-50 residences in a colonia, including potable water, wastewater
 1-51 disposal, drainage, streets, and utilities;

1-52 (6) surveying or platting residential property that an
 1-53 individual purchased without the benefit of a legal survey, plat,
 1-54 or record;

1-55 (7) providing credit and debt counseling related to
 1-56 home purchase and finance;

1-57 (8) applying for grants and loans to provide housing
 1-58 and other needed community improvements;

1-59 (9) providing other services that the self-help
 1-60 center, with the approval of the department, determines are

2-1 necessary to assist colonia residents in improving their ~~[physical]~~
2-2 living conditions, including help in:
2-3 (A) obtaining suitable alternative housing
2-4 outside of a colonia's area; and
2-5 (B) performing the following authorized public
2-6 service activities under Title 1 of the Housing and Community
2-7 Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. Section 5301 et seq.):
2-8 (i) securing employment;
2-9 (ii) establishing or expanding a small
2-10 business;
2-11 (iii) developing professional skills; or
2-12 (iv) managing personal finances and
2-13 achieving financial literacy;
2-14 (10) providing assistance in obtaining loans or grants
2-15 to enable an individual or a family to acquire fee simple title to
2-16 property that originally was purchased under a contract for a deed,
2-17 contract for sale, or other executory contract; and
2-18 (11) providing monthly programs to educate
2-19 individuals and families on their rights and responsibilities as
2-20 property owners.
2-21 (d) A self-help center may not provide grants, financing, or
2-22 mortgage loan services to purchase, build, rehabilitate, or finance
2-23 construction or improvements to a home or otherwise improve living
2-24 conditions in a colonia if water service and suitable wastewater
2-25 disposal are not available.
2-26 SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "colonia" has the meaning
2-27 assigned by Section 2306.581, Government Code.
2-28 (b) A joint interim committee is established to study
2-29 colonias and colonia initiatives in this state.
2-30 (c) The joint interim committee is composed of the members
2-31 of the standing committees of the legislature with primary
2-32 jurisdiction over colonias and colonia issues. The committee
2-33 members shall select a presiding officer from among the membership.
2-34 (d) In conducting the study under this section, the joint
2-35 interim committee shall:
2-36 (1) determine the best methods for updating and
2-37 maintaining colonia identification systems and for identifying and
2-38 classifying colonias in which the highest public health risks
2-39 exist;
2-40 (2) consider whether colonias should be defined
2-41 uniformly across all relevant state agencies and whether that
2-42 definition should include essential metrics such as:
2-43 (A) economic mobility levels;
2-44 (B) poverty levels;
2-45 (C) mortality rates;
2-46 (D) health professional shortage area scores;
2-47 and
2-48 (E) the average level of education attained by
2-49 colonia residents;
2-50 (3) to address the enduring lack of services and
2-51 infrastructure in colonias, assess best practices and funding needs
2-52 for surveying the services and infrastructure available in, and
2-53 demographics of, each colonia;
2-54 (4) assess the status of state agency tracking and
2-55 reporting of state-funded colonia projects and whether
2-56 improvements to the tracking or reporting mechanisms are necessary;
2-57 (5) determine and assess any non-infrastructure needs
2-58 within colonias and options for this state to address those needs;
2-59 and
2-60 (6) assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on
2-61 colonias and whether additional state services are necessary to
2-62 address those impacts.
2-63 (e) The joint interim committee has all other powers and
2-64 duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the
2-65 senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301,
2-66 Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees
2-67 on administration.
2-68 (f) Not later than September 1, 2022, the joint interim
2-69 committee shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant

3-1 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
3-2 legislature a written report that includes the findings of the
3-3 committee under this section, including any legislative
3-4 recommendations.

3-5 (g) The joint interim committee established under this
3-6 section is abolished and this section expires November 1, 2022.

3-7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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