

By: Noble

H.B. No. 1886

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study of streamlining welfare programs in Texas to
3 reduce costs and improve outcomes for beneficiaries.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Welfare" means programs run by the federal
7 government and/or the State of Texas that provide food, medical,
8 and financial assistance to individuals who qualify based on need.
9 For the purposes of this study, "welfare" refers to the following
10 programs:

11 (A) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
12 (TANF);

13 (B) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
14 (SNAP);

15 (C) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for
16 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);

17 (D) Medicaid;

18 (E) Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);

19 (F) Child Care and Early Learning Services
20 Program; and

21 (G) Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program
22 (CEAP) programs.

23 (b) The Legislative Budget Board must study welfare
24 programs available in the State of Texas for the purpose of

1 streamlining program eligibility requirements, resources, and
2 services to improve outcomes for beneficiaries and reduce costs to
3 taxpayers. The study must cover each of the five years prior to the
4 date this Act takes effect. The board must:

5 (1) examine:

6 (A) State taxpayer dollars expended per welfare
7 program;

8 (B) Total state and federal dollars expended per
9 welfare program in the state;

10 (C) Services provided by each program;

11 (D) Number of beneficiaries per program;

12 (E) Information on the income, employment
13 status, marital status, number of dependents, and geographic region
14 of residence for beneficiaries of the program;

15 (F) Duplication of services and administrative
16 activities across welfare programs;

17 (G) Percent of program dollars that reach the
18 intended beneficiaries of the program;

19 (H) Percent of program dollars expended on staff
20 and administrative expenses;

21 (I) Percent of beneficiaries who move off each
22 program because they no longer meet income qualification
23 requirements;

24 (J) Recidivism rate for each program;

25 (K) The average length of time between an initial
26 application for benefits and approval; and

27 (L) Percent of prospective beneficiaries who

1 begin, but never submit applications.

2 (2) conduct a cost-benefit analysis comparing the cost
3 of providing each welfare program examined with its effectiveness
4 at moving beneficiaries to self-sufficiency.

5 (3) perform a statistical analysis of the data and
6 information collected under Subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
7 subsection; and

8 (4) make recommendations for simplifying and
9 streamlining welfare programs in Texas to improve outcomes and
10 lower costs to taxpayers.

11 (c) Any agency or department that manages or administers
12 benefits under a program identified in Section (a)(1) must provide
13 requested data to the Legislative Budget Board in a timely manner.

14 (d) The Legislative Budget Board must prepare a report based
15 on the findings of the study conducted under this section and must
16 submit the report to each member of the legislature not later than
17 September 1, 2022. The report must also be posted to the Legislative
18 Budget Board's public internet website.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.