

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2164

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to efficiency audits of the Health and Human Services  
3 Commission.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 531.005521 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 531.005521. EFFICIENCY AUDIT. (a) For purposes of  
8 this section, "efficiency audit" means an investigation of the  
9 operations of the commission to examine fiscal management,  
10 efficiency, implementation of programs the commission administers  
11 and the incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse in those programs, and  
12 utilization of resources.

13 (b) In 2022 and every sixth year after that year, an  
14 external auditor selected under Subsection (f) shall conduct an  
15 efficiency audit.

16 (c) In a year in which an efficiency audit is completed as  
17 required by this section, the efficiency audit satisfies the  
18 commission's annual internal audit requirements under Section  
19 531.00552.

20 (d) The commission shall pay the costs associated with an  
21 efficiency audit required under this section using existing  
22 resources.

23 (e) The state auditor shall ensure that the external auditor  
24 conducts the efficiency audit in accordance with the requirements

1 of this section.

2 (f) Not later than March 1 of the year in which an efficiency  
3 audit is required under this section, the state auditor shall  
4 select an external auditor to conduct the efficiency audit.

5 (g) The external auditor shall be independent of the  
6 commission's direction.

7 (h) The external auditor shall complete the audit not later  
8 than the 90th day after the date the auditor is selected.

9 (i) The Legislative Budget Board shall establish the scope  
10 of the efficiency audit and determine the areas of investigation  
11 for the audit, including:

12 (1) reviewing the commission's resources to determine  
13 whether those resources:

14 (A) are being used effectively and efficiently to  
15 achieve desired outcomes for individuals receiving benefits under a  
16 program the commission administers; and

17 (B) are not being used for purposes other than  
18 the intended goals of the applicable program;

19 (2) identifying cost savings or reallocations of  
20 resources;

21 (3) identifying opportunities for improving services  
22 through consolidation of essential functions, outsourcing, and  
23 elimination of duplicative efforts; and

24 (4) identifying whether the commission administers  
25 each program in a manner consistent with any stated legislative  
26 intent, if applicable.

27 (j) Not later than November 1 of the year an efficiency

1 audit is conducted, the external auditor shall prepare and submit a  
2 report of the audit and recommendations for efficiency improvements  
3 to the governor, the Legislative Budget Board, the state auditor,  
4 the executive commissioner, and the chairs of the House Human  
5 Services Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services  
6 Committee. The executive commissioner and the state auditor shall  
7 publish the report, recommendations, and full audit on the  
8 commission's and the state auditor's Internet websites.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.