

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 1138  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2021; March 18, 2021, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services;  
 1-4 April 20, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 20, 2021,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
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 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1138 By: Campbell

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a study on streamlining public safety net programs to  
 1-22 reduce costs and improve outcomes for recipients under the  
 1-23 programs.

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

1-25 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

1-26 (1) "Board" means the Legislative Budget Board.

1-27 (2) "Safety net program" means any needs-based state  
 1-28 or federal program that provides food, medical, or financial  
 1-29 assistance to a recipient under the program, including:

1-30 (A) the child health plan program under Chapter  
 1-31 62, Health and Safety Code;

1-32 (B) the financial assistance program under  
 1-33 Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

1-34 (C) the medical assistance program under Chapter  
 1-35 32, Human Resources Code;

1-36 (D) the supplemental nutrition assistance  
 1-37 program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code;

1-38 (E) the federal special supplemental nutrition  
 1-39 program for women, infants, and children authorized by 42 U.S.C.  
 1-40 Section 1786;

1-41 (F) the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program  
 1-42 administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
 1-43 Affairs in accordance with the federal Low-Income Home Energy  
 1-44 Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. Section 8621 et seq.); and

1-45 (G) the child care services program operated by  
 1-46 the Texas Workforce Commission.

1-47 SECTION 2. STUDY OF SAFETY NET PROGRAMS. (a) The board, in  
 1-48 coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission and  
 1-49 other applicable state agencies, shall conduct a study on safety  
 1-50 net programs available in this state during the five-year period  
 1-51 preceding the effective date of this Act for the purposes of:

1-52 (1) streamlining program eligibility requirements,  
 1-53 resources, and benefits;

1-54 (2) improving outcomes for recipients under the  
 1-55 programs; and

1-56 (3) reducing costs to taxpayers.

1-57 (b) The study must include:

1-58 (1) an examination of:

1-59 (A) the total amount of:

1-60 (i) taxpayer revenue spent per safety net

2-1 program;

2-2 (ii) state money appropriated per program;

2-3 and

2-4 (iii) federal money received per program;

2-5 (B) benefits provided under each program;

2-6 (C) the number of recipients enrolled in or

2-7 otherwise receiving benefits under each program;

2-8 (D) aggregate demographic and socioeconomic

2-9 information on recipients under each program including information

2-10 relating to:

2-11 (i) the average household income of

2-12 recipients under each program;

2-13 (ii) the employment status of recipients

2-14 or, if recipients are dependents, the parents or guardians of

2-15 recipients, under each program;

2-16 (iii) the marital status of recipients or,

2-17 if recipients are dependents, the parents or guardians of

2-18 recipients, under each program; and

2-19 (iv) the average number of dependents in

2-20 recipient households under each program;

2-21 (E) duplicative services and administrative

2-22 activities among programs;

2-23 (F) the percentage of state money appropriated to

2-24 each program that is directly spent on providing benefits to

2-25 recipients under the program and the percentage that is spent on

2-26 staff and other administrative costs;

2-27 (G) the percentage of recipients who become

2-28 ineligible for each program because the recipient no longer meets

2-29 the income eligibility requirements;

2-30 (H) the number of individuals who begin, but do

2-31 not complete, an application for benefits under each program and a

2-32 statement of that number as a percentage of the overall number of

2-33 recipients under each program;

2-34 (I) the rate at which former recipients of each

2-35 program later reapply for benefits under the program; and

2-36 (J) the average length of time between an initial

2-37 application for benefits and approval under each program;

2-38 (2) a cost-benefit analysis that compares the costs of

2-39 providing each program with the program's effectiveness at

2-40 transitioning recipients to self-sufficiency; and

2-41 (3) a statistical analysis of the data collected under

2-42 Subdivisions (1) and (2).

2-43 (c) The board shall collect any information necessary to

2-44 conduct the study from each state agency that administers or

2-45 operates a safety net program. At the request of the board, each

2-46 agency shall submit the requested information to the board within a

2-47 reasonable time, as prescribed by the board.

2-48 (d) The board shall conduct the study and prepare the report

2-49 required by Section 3 of this Act using existing resources.

2-50 SECTION 3. REPORT ON SAFETY NET PROGRAMS. Not later than

2-51 September 1, 2022, the board shall:

2-52 (1) submit a report on the board's findings and

2-53 recommendations to the legislature, including recommendations on

2-54 how to:

2-55 (A) simplify and streamline each safety net

2-56 program;

2-57 (B) improve outcomes of each program; and

2-58 (C) lower costs to taxpayers for safety net

2-59 programs; and

2-60 (2) post the report on the board's Internet website.

2-61 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2023.

2-62 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect

2-63 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members

2-64 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas

2-65 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

2-66 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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