

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 1917
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; April 1, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services;
 1-4 April 20, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 20, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to a public outreach campaign for aging adults with visual
 1-20 impairments.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Section 531.0319 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 531.0319. OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS FOR AGING ADULTS WITH
 1-25 VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS. (a) The commission, in collaboration with the
 1-26 Texas State Library and Archives Commission and other appropriate
 1-27 state agencies, shall conduct public awareness and education
 1-28 outreach campaigns designed to provide information relating to the
 1-29 programs and resources available to aging adults who are blind or
 1-30 visually impaired in this state. The campaigns must be:

1-31 (1) tailored to targeted populations, including:

1-32 (A) aging adults with or at risk of blindness or
 1-33 visual impairment and the families and caregivers of those adults;

1-34 (B) health care providers, including home and
 1-35 community-based services providers, health care facilities, and
 1-36 emergency medical services providers;

1-37 (C) community and faith-based organizations; and

1-38 (D) the general public; and

1-39 (2) disseminated through methods appropriate for each
 1-40 targeted population, including by:

1-41 (A) attending health fairs; and

1-42 (B) working with organizations or groups that
 1-43 serve aging adults, including community clinics, libraries,
 1-44 support groups for aging adults, veterans organizations,
 1-45 for-profit providers of vision services, and the state and local
 1-46 chapters of the National Federation of the Blind.

1-47 (b) To support campaigns conducted under this section, the
 1-48 commission shall:

1-49 (1) establish a toll-free telephone number for
 1-50 providing counseling and referrals to appropriate services for
 1-51 aging adults who are blind or visually impaired;

1-52 (2) post on the commission's Internet website
 1-53 information and training resources for aging adults, community
 1-54 stakeholders, and health care and other service providers that
 1-55 generally serve aging adults, including:

1-56 (A) links to Internet websites that contain
 1-57 resources for persons who are blind or visually impaired;

1-58 (B) existing videos that provide awareness of
 1-59 blindness and visual impairments among aging adults and the
 1-60 importance of early intervention;

1-61 (C) best practices for referring aging adults at

2-1 risk of blindness or visual impairment for appropriate services;
2-2 and
2-3 (D) training about resources available for aging
2-4 adults who are blind or visually impaired for the staff of aging and
2-5 disability resource centers established under the Aging and
2-6 Disability Resource Center initiative funded in part by the federal
2-7 Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
2-8 Services;
2-9 (3) designate a contact in the commission to assist
2-10 aging adults who are diagnosed with a visual impairment and are
2-11 losing vision and the families of those adults with locating and
2-12 obtaining appropriate services; and
2-13 (4) encourage awareness of the reading services for
2-14 persons who are blind or visually impaired that are offered by the
2-15 Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
2-16 (c) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to
2-17 implement this section.

2-18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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