

By: Lalani

H.B. No. 3628

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to establishing a process to inform certain housing
3 assistance applicants of their potential eligibility for certain
4 public assistance programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 531.0555 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.0555. NOTIFYING CERTAIN HOUSING APPLICANTS ABOUT
9 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Housing
11 and Community Affairs.

12 (2) "Housing choice voucher program" means the housing
13 choice voucher program under Section 8, United States Housing Act
14 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. Section 1437f).

15 (3) "Public assistance program" includes:

16 (A) Medicaid;

17 (B) the child health plan program;

18 (C) the financial assistance program under
19 Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

20 (D) the nutritional assistance programs under
21 Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, including the supplemental
22 nutrition assistance program under that chapter; and

23 (E) other programs administered and identified
24 by the commission.

1 (b) The commission in collaboration with the department and
2 public housing authorities shall develop and implement a process to
3 screen and identify individuals and members of the individuals'
4 households who may be eligible for a public assistance program
5 based on the individual's submission of an application for
6 participation in the housing choice voucher program.

7 (c) An individual who is or has a household member who is
8 identified as potentially eligible for a public assistance program
9 must be:

10 (1) notified of each program for which the individual
11 or the individual's household member may be eligible; and

12 (2) provided with information on how to apply for and
13 obtain benefits under those programs.

14 (d) The commission and department shall enter into a
15 memorandum of understanding to implement this section. The
16 memorandum must specify the roles and duties of each agency with
17 respect to carrying out this section.

18 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
19 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
20 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
21 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
22 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
23 waiver or authorization is granted.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.