

By: Campos

H.B. No. 4687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of funding for the coordination of mental health, substance use, and public health care services in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter T to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER T. MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

INITIATIVES

Sec. 403.601. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Council" means the mental health, substance use, and public health initiative council established by Section 403.602.

(2) "Fund" means the mental health, substance use, and public health initiative trust fund established by Section 403.603.

Sec. 403.602. MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, AND PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE COUNCIL. (a) The mental health, substance use, and public health initiative council is established to ensure that money allocated to the mental health, substance use, and public health initiative trust fund is allocated fairly and spent to improve the coordination among mental health, substance use, and public health.

(b) The council is composed of the following 12 members:

(1) one member appointed by the governor who is a

1 current or retired health care operations professional with 10 or
2 more years of experience in matters of substance use, mental
3 health, and public health;

4 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor
5 who is a current or retired health care operations professional
6 with 10 or more years of experience in matters of substance use,
7 mental health, and public health;

8 (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives who is a current or retired health care operations
10 professional with 10 or more years of experience in matters of
11 substance use, mental health, and public health;

12 (4) three members appointed by the executive
13 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission who are
14 from academia or the medical profession and have significant
15 experience in matters of substance use, mental health, and public
16 health;

17 (5) five members appointed by the executive
18 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as
19 follows:

20 (A) one member who is a current or former
21 employee of a rural hospital district;

22 (B) one member who is a current or former
23 employee of a local health authority;

24 (C) one member who is a current or former
25 employee of a federally qualified health center in this state; and

26 (D) two members with at least 10 years of
27 experience working with a health philanthropy nonprofit

1 organization or foundation; and

2 (6) the comptroller or the comptroller's designee.

3 (c) The comptroller or the comptroller's designee serves as
4 the presiding officer of the council and is a nonvoting member.

5 (d) In making appointments under Subsection (b)(4), the
6 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
7 shall appoint members from lists provided by the governing bodies
8 of six rural counties and six rural municipalities selected by the
9 executive commissioner with each list naming two qualified
10 candidates with experience in substance use treatment, education,
11 and research.

12 (e) In making appointments under Subsection (b), the
13 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
14 representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the membership of
15 the council reflects, to the extent possible, the ethnic and
16 geographic diversity of this state.

17 (f) The council is administratively attached to the
18 Department of State Health Services. The Department of State Health
19 Services shall provide the staff and facilities necessary to assist
20 the council in performing its duties.

21 (g) A decision by the council to award a grant under Section
22 403.604 requires the unanimous approval of all members of the
23 council.

24 (h) The council is subject to Chapter 551.

25 Sec. 403.603. MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE, AND PUBLIC
26 HEALTH INITIATIVE TRUST FUND. (a) The mental health, substance
27 use, and public health initiative trust fund is a trust fund

1 established outside the state treasury for the purposes of this
2 subchapter. The fund is not a part of this state's general funds.

3 (b) The fund is administered by the Texas Treasury
4 Safekeeping Trust Company. The trust company may authorize money
5 from the fund to be invested with money from the state treasury.
6 The trust company may establish in the fund accounts to facilitate
7 the administration of money in the fund.

8 (c) The fund consists of:

9 (1) an initial appropriation of money by the
10 legislature to the fund as permanent principal for the fund;

11 (2) any additional legislative appropriations of
12 money for the purposes of the fund;

13 (3) interest or other earnings on money credited to or
14 allocable to the fund; and

15 (4) money from gifts, grants, or donations to the
16 fund.

17 (d) The money initially appropriated by the legislature as
18 permanent principal for the fund may not be used for any purpose
19 other than to gain interest or other investment earnings.

20 (e) Money in the fund gained as interest or other earnings
21 on the investment of the permanent principal of the fund may be used
22 only to:

23 (1) provide grants in accordance with Section 403.604;
24 and

25 (2) pay the necessary and reasonable expenses of
26 administering the fund.

27 (f) In making investments of money in the fund, the Texas

1 Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company shall exercise the judgment and
2 care under the circumstances then prevailing that a person of
3 ordinary prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercises in the
4 management of the person's own affairs.

5 (g) The Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company may
6 appoint one or more commercial banks, depository trust companies,
7 or other similar entities to serve as the custodian of the fund.

8 Sec. 403.604. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The
9 council shall establish a grant program to award grants for
10 programs that improve the coordination between substance use,
11 mental health, and public health care services in this state
12 providing services to individuals with co-occurring mental health
13 and substance use disorders.

14 (b) A program funded through a grant awarded under this
15 subchapter must improve the coordination between substance use,
16 mental health, and public health care services in the state
17 through:

18 (1) evidence-based preventative or therapeutic
19 measures, research, the implementation of new technology, data
20 collection, education programs, or capital improvements; and

21 (2) providing an efficient and cost-effective method
22 that is directed to support the coordination of personnel, capital
23 improvements, data interoperability, or long-term financial
24 sustainability of the mental health care, substance use, and public
25 health care providers.

26 (c) Annually, the council shall establish procedures for
27 submitting, accepting, and evaluating grant applications under

1 this subchapter.

2 (d) The council, in coordination with the statewide
3 behavioral health coordinating council established under
4 Subchapter M-1, Chapter 531, shall evaluate grant applications at
5 least biennially.

6 Sec. 403.605. REPORT. Not later than October 1 of each
7 year, the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company shall submit a
8 written report to the legislature detailing:

9 (1) all expenditures made by the council during the
10 preceding state fiscal year; and

11 (2) any amount of money greater than the initial
12 appropriation of permanent principal by the legislature that is
13 held in the fund.

14 Sec. 403.606. RULES. The council shall adopt rules to
15 implement this subchapter.

16 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
17 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
18 Services Commission, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the
19 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the members
20 of the mental health, substance use, and public health initiative
21 council as provided by Section 403.602, Government Code, as added
22 by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.