

By: Springer, West

S.B. No. 1803

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the effectiveness of state-funded homelessness programs at helping beneficiaries advance toward self-sufficiency.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 321, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 321.0139 to read as follows:

Sec. 321.0139. AUDIT OF HOMELESSNESS SERVICES. (a) In each even-numbered year, the State Auditor shall require an audit to be conducted regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of all homelessness services that are provided by the state agencies identified under Subsections (e) and (f).

(a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), 2026 is the first year that an audit is required to be conducted under this section. This subsection expires January 1, 2027.

(b) Not later than March 1 of the year in which an audit is required under this section, the State Auditor shall engage an independent external auditor to conduct the audit. The external auditor may not be under the direction of any agency subject to the audit under this section.

(c) The State Auditor shall supervise the external auditor to ensure that the audit is conducted in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(d) The audit shall:

(1) examine all state resources used in providing

1 services to homeless individuals, including financial resources,  
2 employees, and infrastructure;

3 (2) according to the purposes of and activities funded  
4 by the agencies identified under Subsections (e) and (f), their  
5 programs, and participating community service providers, assess  
6 the effectiveness and efficiency of the agencies, programs, and  
7 providers in helping homeless individuals advance toward  
8 self-sufficiency, including an assessment of the percentage of  
9 beneficiaries:

10 (A) who maintain housing for at least 12 months  
11 after placement in the housing, disaggregated according to the  
12 primary payor for the housing and including payors other than the  
13 beneficiary;

14 (B) whose children are enrolled in school or  
15 other educational programs;

16 (C) if eligible, who:

17 (i) participate in at least 20 hours per  
18 week of paid employment, including paid apprenticeships;

19 (ii) are engaged in occupational or  
20 vocational training programs; and

21 (iii) earn a living wage, as defined by the  
22 applicable local workforce development board;

23 (D) who are ineligible to participate in at least  
24 20 hours per week of paid employment described by Paragraph (C)(i),  
25 disaggregated by the reason for ineligibility;

26 (E) with mental health needs, who engage in  
27 ongoing mental health care services;

1           (F) with addiction or substance use disorders,  
2 who engage in ongoing treatment services;

3           (G) with a history of involvement with the  
4 criminal justice system that continued during the 12-month period  
5 following the provision of the applicable services; and

6           (H) with a history of involvement with the  
7 criminal justice system that ceased during the 12-month period  
8 following the provision of the applicable services;

9           (3) make recommendations for:

10           (A) eliminating poorly performing programs,  
11 services, and functions;

12           (B) ending contractual or funding relationships  
13 with poorly performing community service providers;

14           (C) consolidating duplicative or overlapping  
15 programs, services, and functions; and

16           (D) reallocating state resources to ensure that  
17 the outcomes in relation to the criteria described by Subdivision  
18 (2) are achieved in the most effective and economical manner; and

19           (4) based on the effectiveness at achieving the  
20 outcomes described by Subdivision (2), rate each applicable agency,  
21 program, or community service provider as "unsatisfactory,"  
22 "satisfactory," or "exemplary."

23           (e) The following agencies must be included in the audit:

24           (1) the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
25 Affairs;

26           (2) the Health and Human Services Commission;

27           (3) the Department of Family and Protective Services;

1           (4) the Texas Education Agency;

2           (5) the Texas Workforce Commission;

3           (6) the Texas Veterans Commission; and

4           (7) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

5           (f) In addition to the agencies listed in Subsection (e),  
6 the State Auditor may select other state agencies for inclusion in  
7 the audit.

8           (g) The external auditor must:

9           (1) complete the audit not later than the 90th day  
10 after the date the auditor is engaged; and

11           (2) present its results and recommendations to the  
12 State Auditor and the heads of the agencies subject to the audit.

13           (h) Not later than November 1 of the year in which an audit  
14 is completed under this section, the State Auditor shall prepare  
15 and submit to the governor, the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives, the lieutenant governor, and the Legislative  
17 Budget Board a report regarding the audit and recommendations for  
18 improvement in the agencies, programs, and community service  
19 providers assessed by the State Auditor.

20           (i) The full audit and State Auditor's report must be  
21 published on the State Auditor's Internet website.

22           (j) The audit shall be paid for by using existing resources  
23 allocated for the purpose of auditing the agencies identified under  
24 Subsections (e) and (f).

25           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.