

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2078

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to senior justice assessment centers in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Title 6, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Chapter 106 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 106. SENIOR JUSTICE ASSESSMENT CENTERS

Sec. 106.001. ESTABLISHMENT OF SENIOR JUSTICE ASSESSMENT CENTERS. A county with a population of one million or more shall establish a senior justice assessment center.

Sec. 106.002. DUTIES. (a) A senior justice assessment center shall provide services to seniors to ensure the dignity of seniors through increased public awareness, educational outreach, and promotion of justice regarding elder abuse.

(b) A senior justice assessment center shall:

(1) provide services to assist in the investigation of elder abuse through a multidisciplinary team composed of representatives of the following in the county:

(A) the sheriff and each municipal law enforcement agency with jurisdiction to investigate elder abuse;

(B) the adult protective services agency;

(C) each attorney representing the state with jurisdiction to prosecute elder abuse cases;

(D) the area agency on aging; and

(E) public health care institutions, including

1 postsecondary institutions providing health care services in the  
2 area; and

3 (2) establish processes and procedures to:

4 (A) determine whether elder abuse has been  
5 committed or whether other forms of neglect or exploitation of a  
6 senior have occurred;

7 (B) evaluate the senior's mental capacity and  
8 ensure the senior's physical safety; and

9 (C) make appropriate referrals to ensure the  
10 provision of comprehensive care and the promotion of justice for  
11 the senior based on the senior's individual needs.

12 (c) In providing services to seniors, a senior justice  
13 assessment center shall collaborate with experts in:

14 (1) geriatric medicine;

15 (2) social services;

16 (3) protective services;

17 (4) law enforcement;

18 (5) civil enforcement; and

19 (6) criminal prosecution.

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