

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2223

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing pilot program to offer assistance for
3 older adults diagnosed with severe vision loss.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sec. [117.080](#), Human Resources Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The department shall ensure that all services provided
8 under the independent living services program that the department
9 operates under Title VII of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
10 (29 U.S.C. Section 796 et seq.) are directly provided by centers for
11 independent living, except as provided by Subsection (b), and are
12 not directly provided by the department.

13 (b) If an area of the state does not have a center for
14 independent living, or no center for independent living in that
15 area is able to provide certain necessary services under the
16 independent living services program, the department shall seek to
17 identify a center for independent living that is willing and able to
18 contract with a nonprofit organization or other person to provide
19 the independent living services in the area under the program. If
20 no center for independent living is willing and able to contract
21 with another organization or other person, the department may
22 directly contract with an organization or other person who is not a
23 center for independent living to provide the independent living
24 services in the area under the program.

1 (c) The department shall evaluate the independent living
2 services provided by a center for independent living and shall
3 provide necessary training or technical assistance to help the
4 center for independent living expand its capacity to provide a full
5 range of independent living services.

6 (1) In the department review, the department shall
7 establish major cities who have the ability to offer day-time
8 classes teaching independent living skills. These major
9 cities may establish a pilot program to conduct these classes
10 for older adults diagnosed with severe vision loss.

11 (d) The department shall monitor the performance of each
12 center for independent living in providing independent living
13 services, including how the center for independent living monitors
14 the performance of the organizations and other persons with whom it
15 contracts to provide independent living services.

16 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to
17 implement this section that include:

18 (1) an equitable and transparent methodology for
19 allocating funds to centers for independent living under the
20 independent living services program;

21 (2) requirements applicable to the department in
22 contracting with centers for independent living to provide
23 independent living services under the program;

24 (3) requirements applicable to centers for
25 independent living in contracting with organizations and other
26 persons to provide independent living services under the program;

27 (4) requirements applicable to the department in

1 contracting with organizations or other persons who are not centers
2 for independent living to provide independent living services under
3 the program;

4 (5) a process for the department to monitor
5 independent living services contracts;

6 (6) guidelines on the department's role in providing
7 technical assistance and training to centers for independent living
8 as necessary; and

9 (7) expectations for department employees to refer
10 persons who contact the department seeking independent living
11 services to centers for independent living.

12 SECTION 2. This act takes effect September 1, 2023.