

Amend CSHB 2292 by adding the following sections, appropriately numbered, and renumbering subsequent sections appropriately:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.063 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.063. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIVERSION PROGRAM. (a) The commission and the Texas Workforce Commission, by rule, shall develop and implement a program to divert persons who have been determined to be eligible for financial assistance and services under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, from public assistance to private employment.

(b) To be eligible for employment through a diversion program under this section, a person must:

(1) be a resident of this state;

(2) have been recently determined to be eligible for financial assistance and services under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

(3) not yet have begun to receive the financial assistance and services for which the person was recently determined to be eligible;

(4) agree to fulfill the terms of a work agreement with a participating private employer under which the person must work an average of at least 30 hours each week; and

(5) not have previously been an employee whose employment qualified a private employer for financial incentive payments through a diversion program under this section.

(c) A financial assistance diversion program under this section may provide to a participating private employer financial incentive payments of up to:

(1) \$150 each month, up to a total of not more than \$900 for each employee, after the employer has employed and paid wages to the person for an average of at least 30 hours of work each week, and where the employee has voluntarily terminated their employment after being employed for at least 90, but less than 180, days; and

(2) \$200 each month, up to a total of not more than \$1,200 for each employee, after the employer has employed and paid

wages to the person for an average of at least 30 hours of work each week for at least 180 days.

(d) Financial incentive payments made to a participating private employer under a diversion program in accordance with this section shall be paid by the Texas Department of Human Services using money from the general revenue fund that is designated for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Not later than January 1, 2004, the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission shall develop and implement a financial assistance diversion program as required by Section 531.063, Government Code, as added by this Act.