

Amend CSSB 1952 by adding the following appropriately numbered ARTICLE and renumbering subsequent ARTICLES accordingly:

ARTICLE \_\_\_\_\_. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
AND MENTAL RETARDATION; VOLUNTARY  
ADMISSION TO STATE SCHOOL

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_.01. Subchapter B, Chapter 593, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 593.0225 to read as follows:

Sec. 593.0225. CRITERIA FOR VOLUNTARY ADMISSION; WAITING LIST. (a) The board by rule shall provide that a state school shall admit any adult person with mental retardation for whom an application for voluntary admission is filed if:

(1) the state school has funded bed space for the person to be admitted for care; and

(2) the state school would provide the least restrictive environment appropriate to the person's care.

(b) Each state school shall maintain a waiting list of persons who desire voluntary admission to a state school and who were denied admission because of lack of bed space.

(c) The department shall ensure that persons seeking state services for a person with mental retardation are informed of the criteria established in rules adopted under Subsection (a), of the waiting list required by Subsection (b), and of the addresses and telephone numbers of each state school.

(d) The board may adopt rules to facilitate the application process for voluntary admission to a state school, the maintenance of the waiting list required by Subsection (b), and the provision of information as required by Subsection (c).

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_.02. The Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall ensure that persons on a waiting list maintained by a mental retardation authority for admission to a state school are informed of:

(1) criteria established in rules adopted under Section 593.0225, Health and Safety Code, as added by this article;

(2) the waiting lists required by that section; and

(3) the address and telephone number of each state school.

SECTION \_\_\_\_ .03. This article applies to an application for voluntary admission filed on or after September 1, 2003. An application for voluntary admission filed before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.