

By: Truitt

H.B. No. 3125

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain programs provided by the Texas Commission for the Blind.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 91.027(a) and (b), Human Resources Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To the extent that funds are available under Sections 521.421(f) and 521.422(b), Transportation Code, the [The] commission shall ~~[develop a Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program to]~~ provide:

(1) blindness prevention education and ~~[to provide]~~ screening and treatment to prevent blindness for residents who are not covered under an adequate health benefit plan; and

(2) transition services to blind disabled individuals eligible for vocational rehabilitation services under Section 91.052.

(b) ~~[The commission shall implement the program only to the extent that funds are available under Section 521.421(f), Transportation Code.]~~ The program established under this section shall include:

(1) public education about blindness and other eye conditions;

(2) screenings and eye examinations to identify conditions that may cause blindness; ~~[and]~~

1           (3) treatment procedures necessary to prevent  
2 blindness; and

3           (4) transition services.

4           SECTION 2. The section heading for Section 91.027, Human  
5 Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

6           Sec. 91.027. BLINDNESS EDUCATION, SCREENING, ~~[AND]~~  
7 TREATMENT, AND TRANSITION SERVICES ~~[PROGRAM]~~.

8           SECTION 3. Section 521.421(f), Transportation Code, as  
9 added by Chapter 510, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular  
10 Session, 1997, is amended to read as follows:

11           (f) The department shall collect an additional fee of \$1 for  
12 the issuance or renewal of a license to fund the program ~~[Blindness~~  
13 ~~Education, Screening, and Treatment Program]~~ established under  
14 Section 91.027, Human Resources Code, if the person applying for or  
15 renewing a license opts to pay the additional fee.

16           SECTION 4. Section 521.422(b), Transportation Code, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18           (b) The department shall collect an additional fee of \$1 for  
19 the issuance or renewal of a personal identification card to fund  
20 the program ~~[Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment~~  
21 ~~Program]~~ established under Section 91.027, Human Resources Code, if  
22 the person applying for or renewing a personal identification card  
23 opts to pay the additional fee.

24           SECTION 5. The Texas Commission for the Blind shall  
25 establish the consolidated program under Section 91.027, Human  
26 Resources Code, as amended by this Act, not later than the 90th day  
27 after the effective date of this Act.

1           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.