

By: Truitt

H.B. No. 3127

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the designation and powers of local health and human
3 services authorities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 531.063 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 531.063. LOCAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AUTHORITIES.

8 (a) The commission may designate local health and human services
9 authorities to provide services for which the commission is
10 responsible, or to provide services for which other health and
11 human services agencies are responsible, in designated local
12 service areas of this state. The commission may delegate to an
13 authority the authority and responsibility for planning, policy
14 development, coordination, resource allocation, resource
15 development, and oversight related to health and human services in
16 the authority's local service area.

17 (b) The commission may designate as a local health and human
18 services authority a local mental health and mental retardation
19 authority designated under Title 7, Health and Safety Code, to
20 serve the same local service area, and a local mental health and
21 mental retardation authority may apply to the commission for its
22 redesignation as a local health and human services authority.

23 (c) A local health and human services agency designated
24 under this section has all the responsibilities and duties of:

1 (1) a local mental health and mental retardation
2 authority provided by Section 533.035, Health and Safety Code, and
3 Subchapter B, Chapter 534, Health and Safety Code;

4 (2) a local behavioral health authority under Section
5 533.0356, Health and Safety Code, and

6 (3) responsibilities and duties for health or human
7 services as determined by the commission.

8 (d) In planning and implementing the provision of services
9 as determined by the commission, a local health and human services
10 authority shall ensure that money spent for services are used in
11 accordance with regulatory and statutory requirements for the use
12 of the money.

13 (e) The commission may disburse state or federal money to a
14 local health and human services authority for services by contract
15 or by a case-rate or capitated arrangement or by another method of
16 allocation.

17 (f) In determining whether to designate a local health and
18 human services authority to serve a local service area, the
19 commission shall solicit and consider written comments from any
20 interested person, including community representatives, persons
21 who may be consumers of the proposed services, and family members of
22 those persons.

23 (g) The commission has full supervisory control over a local
24 health and human services authority designated under this section.
25 The authority shall demonstrate to the commission that services
26 involving the expenditure of state or federal money comply with
27 state and federal standards for the expenditures and deliver of the

1 services.

2 (h) The commission shall adopt rules governing the
3 operations of local health and human services authorities.

4 (i) The commission may assign a local health and human
5 services authority the duty to provide a single point of entry for
6 its assigned services.

7 SECTION 2. The Health and Human Services Commission shall
8 determine whether local mental health and mental retardation
9 authorities and local behavioral health authorities in operation on
10 the effective date of this Act may conveniently and
11 cost-effectively serve as local health and human services
12 authorities as authorized by Section 531.059, Government Code, as
13 added by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.