

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 69

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing employment services to certain recipients of financial assistance.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 302.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 302.0025. EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REFERRAL PROGRAM. (a) The commission and local workforce development boards shall develop an employment services referral program for recipients of financial assistance who participate in employment programs under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, and have, in comparison to other recipients, higher levels of barriers to employment. The referral program must be designed to provide to a recipient referrals to preemployment and postemployment services offered by community-based organizations.

(b) In developing the referral program, the commission and local workforce development boards shall, to the maximum extent possible, use federal funds to coordinate partnerships and contract with community-based organizations that provide employment services specifically for persons with high levels of barriers to employment.

SECTION 2. Section 302.011, Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 302.011. POSTEMPLOYMENT CASE MANAGEMENT AND

1 MENTORING. The commission shall encourage local workforce  
2 development boards to provide postemployment case management  
3 services for and use mentoring techniques to assist recipients of  
4 financial assistance who participate in employment programs under  
5 Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, and have, in comparison to other  
6 recipients, higher levels of barriers to employment. The case  
7 management services and mentoring techniques must be designed to  
8 increase the recipient's potential for wage growth and development  
9 of a stable employment history.

10 SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2003, the Texas  
11 Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards shall  
12 develop the employment services referral program required by  
13 Section 302.0025, Labor Code, as added by this Act.

14 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
15 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
16 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
17 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
18 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
19 waiver or authorization is granted.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.