

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 639

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the provision of federal earned income tax credit
3 materials and federal income tax preparation assistance
4 information to certain health and human services and Texas
5 Workforce Commission clients.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 531.193 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 531.193. CONTRACT REQUIREMENT: DISTRIBUTION OF
10 FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATERIALS AND INFORMATION. (a) In this section,
11 "volunteer income tax assistance program" means a program operated
12 through a collaboration of the Internal Revenue Service and a local
13 governmental entity or other entity under which low-income and
14 other eligible taxpayers receive free assistance in preparing
15 federal income tax returns.

16 (b) In each contract between the commission and a contractor
17 for implementation of all or part of the plan required by Section
18 531.191(a) under which the contractor will have direct contact with
19 clients to determine eligibility for health and human services or
20 Texas Workforce Commission services, or to provide access to those
21 services, the commission must include a requirement that the
22 contractor provide to each client in January of each 12-month
23 period in which the contractor has contact with the client:

24 (1) educational materials relating to the federal

1 earned income tax credit;

2 (2) federal income tax forms necessary to claim the
3 credit;

4 (3) an addressed envelope in which to mail the forms to
5 the Internal Revenue Service; and

6 (4) a list of volunteer income tax assistance programs
7 in geographic proximity to the client's residence.

8 (c) Before providing a federal income tax form to a client
9 as required by Subsection (b)(2), the contractor must complete for
10 the client any portion of the form for which the contractor has the
11 required information.

12 (d) The contract provision under this section is required
13 regardless of whether the contractor's contact with a client is in
14 person, by telephone, or through another medium.

15 (e) Educational materials relating to the federal earned
16 income tax credit required under Subsection (b)(1) may include
17 Internal Revenue Service publications relating to that credit or
18 information relating to that credit prepared by the comptroller
19 under Section 403.025.

20 SECTION 2. Section 531.193, Government Code, as added by
21 this Act, applies only to a contract that is entered into or renewed
22 on or after the effective date of this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.