

1-1 By: Rodriguez, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 1230
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 19, 2007;
1-3 April 26, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 11, 2007, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 11, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to services provided to youth with disabilities
1-9 transitioning from school-oriented living to post-schooling
1-10 activities, services for adults, and community living.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 531.02445 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 531.02445. TRANSITION SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH
1-15 DISABILITIES. (a) The executive commissioner shall monitor
1-16 programs and services offered through health and human services
1-17 agencies designed to assist youth with disabilities to transition
1-18 from school-oriented living to post-schooling activities, services
1-19 for adults, or community living.

1-20 (b) In monitoring the programs and services, the executive
1-21 commissioner shall:

1-22 (1) consider whether the programs or services result
1-23 in positive outcomes in the employment, community integration,
1-24 health, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities; and

1-25 (2) collect information regarding the outcomes of the
1-26 transition process as necessary to assess the programs and
1-27 services.

1-28 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 117, Human Resources Code,
1-29 is amended by adding Section 117.058 to read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 117.058. SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.

1-31 (a) The department shall establish and require employee
1-32 participation in a specialized training program for certain
1-33 employees, including vocational rehabilitation transition
1-34 specialists and transition counselors, whose duties involve
1-35 assisting youth with disabilities to transition to post-schooling
1-36 activities, services for adults, or community living.

1-37 (b) The training program must provide employees with
1-38 information regarding:

1-39 (1) supports and services available from other health
1-40 and human services agencies for:

1-41 (A) youth with disabilities who are
1-42 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
1-43 or community living; and

1-44 (B) adults with disabilities;

1-45 (2) community resources available to improve the
1-46 quality of life for:

1-47 (A) youth with disabilities who are
1-48 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
1-49 or community living; and

1-50 (B) adults with disabilities; and

1-51 (3) other available resources that may remove
1-52 transitional barriers for youth with disabilities who are
1-53 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
1-54 or community living.

1-55 (c) In developing the training program required by this
1-56 section, the department shall collaborate with other health and
1-57 human services agencies as necessary.

1-58 SECTION 3. (a) In this section:

1-59 (1) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
1-60 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

1-61 (2) "Health and human services agency" means a health
1-62 and human services agency listed in Section 531.001, Government
1-63 Code, that regulates the care or treatment of a resident of a
1-64 facility.

2-1 (b) The executive commissioner shall establish a work group
2-2 to create and implement a plan to:

2-3 (1) ensure that an individual with a disability who is
2-4 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
2-5 or community living has choices about the individual's work and
2-6 career and has the opportunity and support necessary to seek
2-7 individualized, competitive employment in the community;

2-8 (2) improve the collaboration between health and human
2-9 services agencies, other state agencies, and community and local
2-10 service providers to maximize existing supported employment
2-11 resources; and

2-12 (3) increase the quality and quantity of available
2-13 supported employment opportunities.

2-14 (c) The executive commissioner shall determine the number
2-15 of members to serve on the work group. The executive commissioner
2-16 shall appoint as members of the work group:

2-17 (1) a representative of the Department of State Health
2-18 Services;

2-19 (2) a representative of the Department of Aging and
2-20 Disability Services;

2-21 (3) a representative of the Department of Assistive
2-22 and Rehabilitative Services;

2-23 (4) a representative of the Health and Human Services
2-24 Commission;

2-25 (5) a representative of the Texas Workforce
2-26 Commission;

2-27 (6) a representative of the Texas Education Agency;

2-28 (7) a representative who is a recognized expert on, or
2-29 who represents the interests of, youth with disabilities who are
2-30 transitioning to post-schooling activities, services for adults,
2-31 or community living; and

2-32 (8) additional members who are recognized experts on,
2-33 or who represent the interests of, individuals with disabilities,
2-34 including advocates, family members, physicians, providers of
2-35 1915(c) waiver services, employers currently offering supported
2-36 employment opportunities, and community and local service
2-37 providers with experience in supported employment.

2-38 (d) In developing the plan, the work group shall focus on:

2-39 (1) increasing the quality of services and resulting
2-40 employment outcomes across disabilities; and

2-41 (2) increasing the cooperation among agencies and
2-42 community providers in the development and provision of seamless
2-43 supported employment services.

2-44 (e) Not later than April 1, 2008, the work group shall file
2-45 its recommended plan with the executive commissioner.

2-46 (f) The executive commissioner:

2-47 (1) not later than November 1, 2007, shall establish
2-48 the work group under Subsection (b) of this section;

2-49 (2) not later than October 1, 2008, shall adopt rules
2-50 necessary to implement the plan recommended by the work group; and

2-51 (3) not later than January 1, 2009, shall present to
2-52 the appropriate committees of the senate and the house of
2-53 representatives for consideration by the 81st Legislature a report
2-54 that describes the actions taken by the health and human services
2-55 agencies to implement the plan recommended by the work group and any
2-56 actions the agencies intend to take during the next biennium in
2-57 accordance with the recommended plan.

2-58 (g) This section expires September 1, 2009.

2-59 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

2-60

* * * * *