

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 2524

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a pilot project to construct a
3 public safety triage and detoxification unit and the provision of
4 mental health and substance abuse treatment.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) The Department of State Health Services
7 shall develop a pilot project in Bexar County to address jail
8 overcrowding by diverting persons with mental illness or substance
9 abuse problems to inpatient and outpatient services using a public
10 safety triage and detoxification unit.

11 (b) In developing the pilot project, the department shall:

12 (1) assist in the construction of a public safety
13 triage and detoxification unit through which inpatient and
14 outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment services may
15 be administered; and

16 (2) contract with the Bexar County local mental health
17 and mental retardation authority or an appropriate nonprofit
18 foundation for the provision of mental health and substance abuse
19 assessment and treatment services, including services for dual
20 diagnosis disorders, to persons with mental illnesses and substance
21 abuse problems or both who are homeless or referred to the pilot
22 project through a jail diversion program.

23 (c) The department, participating local mental health
24 authorities, prosecutorial agencies, law enforcement agencies,

1 jail facilities, courts, county or municipal governments,
2 appropriate nonprofit foundations, and providers of psychiatric
3 services may enter into agreements regarding the procedures to
4 follow in implementing the project and the duties of each
5 participating entity.

6 (d) Not later than November 1, 2008, the department shall
7 submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the
8 house of representatives a report regarding:

9 (1) the quality of the services provided through the
10 pilot project;

11 (2) the cost-effectiveness of providing mental health
12 and substance abuse services in coordination with a jail diversion
13 program;

14 (3) recommendations for establishing similar programs
15 throughout the state; and

16 (4) any other relevant information as determined by
17 the department.

18 (e) This section expires September 1, 2009.

19 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
20 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
21 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
22 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
23 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
24 waiver or authorization is granted.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.