

1-1 By: Chisum, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Estes) H.B. No. 2683
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2007;
1-3 April 17, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 4, 2007, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9,
1-6 Nays 0; May 4, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2683 By: Deuell

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to funding for programs that support the development of
1-11 healthy marriages or the strengthening of families.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Human Resources Code,
1-14 is amended by adding Sections 31.017 and 31.018 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 31.017. HEALTHY MARRIAGES AND STRONG FAMILIES GRANT
1-16 PROGRAM. (a) The Health and Human Services Commission may
1-17 administer a grant program to provide grants in amounts not to
1-18 exceed \$50,000 to programs that provide marriage education services
1-19 and support the development of healthy marriages or strengthening
1-20 of families. Grant recipients may use grant money to provide direct
1-21 services to participants, develop a program, enlarge program
1-22 capacity, or pay other program expenses, including provider
1-23 training and technical assistance expenses.

1-24 (b) In selecting grant recipients, the Health and Human
1-25 Services Commission shall give preference to applicants:

1-26 (1) whose programs will contribute to the geographic
1-27 diversity of program locations; or

1-28 (2) who operate small programs, but who seek to
1-29 maximize service delivery and build capacity.

1-30 (c) The Health and Human Services Commission shall require
1-31 that each grant recipient provide program services at no cost to
1-32 participants.

1-33 (d) The Health and Human Services Commission may contract
1-34 with private entities to provide marriage education training and
1-35 curriculum, technical assistance, and other support to grant
1-36 recipients. In selecting entities to provide these services, the
1-37 commission shall consider whether a prospective provider has
1-38 knowledge and understanding of the needs of grant recipients
1-39 operating programs in different areas of this state.

1-40 (e) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
1-41 Services Commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

1-42 Sec. 31.018. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY PROGRAM FUNDING. To the
1-43 extent authorized by federal law, the Health and Human Services
1-44 Commission shall spend a minimum of one percent of money received
1-45 under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block
1-46 grant during each state fiscal year to fund programs that support
1-47 the development of healthy marriages or the strengthening of
1-48 families, including the healthy marriage development program under
1-49 Section 31.015 and the healthy marriages and strong families grant
1-50 program under Section 31.017.

1-51 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
1-52 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
1-53 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
1-54 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
1-55 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
1-56 waiver or authorization is granted.

1-57 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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