

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 2856

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the lifespan respite services pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 161, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 161.075 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.075. LIFESPAN RESPITE SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "respite services" means support services, including in-home services or adult day-care services, that are provided for the purpose of temporarily giving relief to a primary caregiver who provides care to an individual with a chronic illness or disability.

(b) The department shall implement the lifespan respite services pilot program to promote the provision of respite services and to develop state and local infrastructure for the provision of those services.

(c) A person is eligible to participate in the pilot program if the person:

(1) is the primary caregiver for a person who:

(A) is younger than 60 years of age;

(B) is related to the caregiver within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity; and

(C) has a chronic illness or disability; and

(2) meets criteria specified in rules adopted by the

1 executive commissioner.

2 (d) In implementing the pilot program, the department
3 shall:

4 (1) maintain a registry of respite services providers;

5 (2) connect caregivers participating in the program
6 with available respite services providers;

7 (3) coordinate resources among respite services
8 providers;

9 (4) build local partnerships with respite services
10 providers;

11 (5) implement public awareness activities regarding
12 respite services; and

13 (6) subject to the availability of funds, provide
14 vouchers for respite services to caregivers participating in the
15 program who are not eligible for respite services provided through
16 other programs.

17 (e) The executive commissioner shall:

18 (1) select the area of this state in which to implement
19 the pilot program; and

20 (2) adopt rules necessary to implement the pilot
21 program.

22 (f) This section expires September 1, 2009.

23 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2008, the executive
24 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, in
25 consultation with the Department of Aging and Disability Services,
26 shall submit a report to the governor and the Legislative Budget
27 Board regarding the lifespan respite services pilot program

1 established under Section 161.075, Human Resources Code, as added
2 by this Act. The report must include an evaluation of the effect of
3 the pilot program on:

4 (1) access to respite services by primary caregivers
5 of persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities; and

6 (2) Medicaid expenditures for long-term care services
7 provided in institutional care settings.

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