

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1865

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, adult day-care services, and facility-based services, that are provided for the purpose of temporarily giving relief to a primary caregiver who provides ongoing care to an individual with a chronic illness or disability.

(b) The department shall develop and implement the lifespan respite services pilot program to promote the provision of respite services. As part of the pilot program, the department shall contract with community-based organizations or local governmental entities selected by the department to provide respite services or to facilitate access to local respite services. A contract may be awarded under this subsection only after the department issues a request for proposals regarding the contract.

(c) A community-based organization or local governmental entity that receives a contract under this section to facilitate access to local respite services may:

(1) recruit and train respite services providers;

- (2) maintain a registry of respite services providers;
- (3) connect caregivers with available respite services providers or programs;
- (4) identify, coordinate, and develop community resources for respite services;
- (5) build local partnerships with respect to respite services;
- (6) implement public awareness activities regarding respite services; and
- (7) subject to the availability of funds, provide vouchers for respite services to eligible primary caregivers who are not eligible for respite services provided through other programs.

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

- (1) provide technical assistance to community-based organizations and local governmental entities that receive a contract under this section;
- (2) provide policy and program development support for organizations and entities described by Subdivision (1);
- (3) monitor the activities for which the department contracts under this section; and
- (4) select the areas of this state in which to implement the pilot program.

(e) In developing the pilot program, the department shall review similar initiatives in other states.

(f) This section expires September 1, 2011.

1 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2008, the Department
2 of Aging and Disability Services, in consultation with the
3 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission,
4 shall submit a report to the governor and the Legislative Budget
5 Board regarding the lifespan respite services pilot program
6 established under Section 161.075, Human Resources Code, as added
7 by this Act. The report must include an evaluation of the effect of
8 the pilot program on:

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

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

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