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H.B. No. 1905

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to studying the costs and benefits of a pilot program for  
3 services for adults with autism and other related disabilities with  
4 similar support needs.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) The executive commissioner of the Health  
7 and Human Services Commission shall conduct a study to determine  
8 the costs and benefits to this state of initiating a pilot program  
9 to provide services to adult persons with autism and other related  
10 disabilities with similar support needs.

11 (b) The study will determine the costs and benefits of a  
12 pilot program based on a program designed to:

13 (1) encourage sustainable employment and community  
14 integration through specialized supports coordination, case  
15 management, vocational assessment, training, and support to  
16 increase job skills and competitive employment opportunities;

17 (2) develop meaningful community-based activities for  
18 persons for whom competitive employment is not a goal;

19 (3) promote continued individual development and  
20 avoid regression;

21 (4) promote self-determination and independence;

22 (5) coordinate services and behavioral supports  
23 across all areas of need; and

24 (6) allow for flexible funding and for a flexible

1 array of services to meet individual needs.

2 (c) In conducting the study, the executive commissioner of  
3 the Health and Human Services Commission shall:

4 (1) define and describe a pilot program with a  
5 seamless system of supports to provide:

6 (A) options for independent living, if  
7 appropriate;

8 (B) community-based housing, if needed; and

9 (C) individualized supports, including:

10 (i) prevocational training;

11 (ii) employment training; and

12 (iii) leisure and recreational activities;

13 (2) research and analyze best practices and programs  
14 from other states that may serve as pilot program models;

15 (3) consult with and solicit feedback from key  
16 stakeholders, including advocacy organizations, potential service  
17 recipients, and parents;

18 (4) address the barriers that may prevent adults with  
19 autism or other related disabilities with similar support needs  
20 from living in their local community including:

21 (A) housing needs and living arrangements;

22 (B) behavioral services;

23 (C) social and communication services and  
24 supports;

25 (D) transportation issues; and

26 (E) health and medical care;

27 (5) identify the existence and cause of service gaps

1 in this state;

2 (6) develop recommendations and determine costs  
3 associated with eliminating service gaps;

4 (7) identify the potential benefit to persons who  
5 would receive services from the pilot program; and

6 (8) identify potential federal sources of funding for  
7 a pilot program.

8 (d) Not later than September 1, 2010, the executive  
9 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
10 submit a report of the findings and conclusions of the study to the  
11 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives, and the presiding officers of the standing  
13 committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary  
14 jurisdiction over the provision of services to persons with  
15 disabilities.

16 (e) The report required under Subsection (d) of this section  
17 must include:

18 (1) a recommendation for the structure of a pilot  
19 program;

20 (2) a recommendation on the choice of an appropriate  
21 agency to design and administer a pilot program;

22 (3) an estimation of the number of persons who may  
23 benefit from a pilot program if a program similar to the pilot  
24 program were instituted statewide;

25 (4) an estimation of the potential costs of the pilot  
26 program and whether the pilot program may lead to savings;

27 (5) a method of determining which persons would be

1 eligible to participate in the pilot program; and

2           (6) which Medicaid waiver programs are appropriate to  
3 the pilot program and whether new Medicaid waiver programs may be  
4 required.

5           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.