

By: Farias, et al.

H.B. No. 1978

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1978:

By: Rose

C.S.H.B. No. 1978

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of an evidence-based youth
3 development competitive grant pilot program.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

6 (1) "Adolescent" means a person who is at least 12
7 years of age but younger than 18 years of age.

8 (2) "Department" means the Department of Family and
9 Protective Services.

10 SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH
11 DEVELOPMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The department
12 shall establish an evidence-based youth development competitive
13 grant pilot program to award grants for the implementation,
14 expansion, and operation of evidence-based youth development
15 programs designed to provide information and guidance for not more
16 than a total of 75 adolescents in making healthy and beneficial life
17 choices.

18 (b) The pilot program shall be located in Bexar County and
19 serve regions that are:

20 (1) located in zip codes in which the school-age birth
21 rate is at least three times the national school-age birth rate; and

22 (2) served by one or more school districts in which:

23 (A) at least 90 percent of the student population
24 is economically disadvantaged; and

1 (B) the annual dropout rate for grades 7 through
2 12 is greater than five percent.

3 SECTION 3. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
4 REQUIREMENTS. (a) An evidence-based youth development program
5 funded through a grant awarded under this Act must:

6 (1) target adolescents who:

7 (A) are at risk of becoming pregnant or causing
8 an unplanned pregnancy or already have a child;

9 (B) are at risk of engaging in delinquent conduct
10 or conduct indicating a need for supervision, as those terms are
11 defined by Section 51.03, Family Code;

12 (C) are students at risk of dropping out of
13 school as defined by Section 29.081(d), Education Code;

14 (D) live in foster care or in a facility operated
15 by the state; or

16 (E) live in economically disadvantaged
17 circumstances;

18 (2) feature a curriculum that is appropriate for
19 adolescents and that has been demonstrated to reduce school dropout
20 and adolescent pregnancy rates;

21 (3) include a community service component of not fewer
22 than 20 hours;

23 (4) include at least one activity session or group
24 discussion each week; and

25 (5) cover a wide variety of developmental topics of
26 interest to adolescents, including:

27 (A) development of values and good judgment;

- 1 (B) communication and assertiveness;
- 2 (C) healthy relationships;
- 3 (D) influence of others and peer pressure;
- 4 (E) goal-setting;
- 5 (F) decision-making;
- 6 (G) development and human sexuality;
- 7 (H) preparation for participation in community
- 8 service activities;
- 9 (I) community service learning; and
- 10 (J) group reflection on community service
- 11 experiences.

12 (b) An evidence-based youth development program that
13 receives a grant under this Act must use grant funding to operate
14 during a nine-month period beginning not earlier than August 1,
15 2010, and not later than September 30, 2010.

16 SECTION 4. APPLICATION. (a) A public or private entity,
17 including a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of
18 this state, may apply for a grant under this Act by submitting a
19 written application to the department on a form prescribed by the
20 department.

21 (b) The application prescribed by the department must:

22 (1) require the applicant to provide data on the
23 number of adolescents who will receive assistance through the
24 program;

25 (2) describe the ongoing monitoring and evaluation
26 process to which a grant recipient is subject, including the
27 recipient's obligation to collect and provide information

1 requested by the department; and

2 (3) require the applicant to provide other relevant
3 information as determined by the department.

4 SECTION 5. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING GRANTS.
5 In determining whether to award a grant under this Act, the
6 department shall consider:

7 (1) the applicant's ability to:

8 (A) participate in ongoing monitoring and
9 performance evaluations, including the applicant's ability to
10 collect and provide information required by the department;

11 (B) adhere to the evidence-based youth
12 development program operating and performance standards; and

13 (C) develop broad-based community support for
14 implementing or expanding an evidence-based youth development
15 program, as applicable; and

16 (2) the applicant's history of developing and
17 sustaining innovative, high-quality programs that meet the needs of
18 families and communities.

19 SECTION 6. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
20 STANDARDS. The commissioner of the department, in accordance with
21 the goals and requirements established by this Act, shall adopt
22 standards for an evidence-based youth development program awarded a
23 grant under this Act.

24 SECTION 7. USE OF AWARDED GRANT FUNDS. The grant funds
25 awarded under this Act may be used only to cover costs related to
26 implementing, expanding, or operating an evidence-based youth
27 development program during a nine-month period beginning not

1 earlier than August 1, 2010, and not later than September 30, 2010,
2 including costs related to:

- 3 (1) administering the program, including:
 - 4 (A) appropriate local site selection; and
 - 5 (B) required evaluation and quality monitoring;
- 6 (2) training and managing staff;
- 7 (3) paying staff salaries and expenses; and
- 8 (4) paying for program facilities and equipment.

9 SECTION 8. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION; COMMITTEE REPORT. (a) The commissioner
11 of the department shall adopt performance indicators designed to
12 measure a grant recipient's performance with respect to the
13 evidence-based youth development program standards adopted by the
14 commissioner under Section 6 of this Act.

15 (b) The department shall use the performance indicators to
16 monitor and evaluate the performance of each grant recipient.

17 (c) Not later than November 1, 2011, the department shall
18 submit a report to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,
19 or its successor, and the House Human Services Committee, or its
20 successor, regarding the performance of each grant recipient with
21 respect to providing evidence-based youth development program
22 services, including:

- 23 (1) the number of low-income adolescents served by an
24 evidence-based youth development program and, of that number, the
25 number of adolescents who subsequently became pregnant or caused a
26 pregnancy; and
- 27 (2) any other information required by the department.

1 (d) On request, each grant recipient shall timely collect
2 and provide data and any other information required by the
3 department to monitor and evaluate the recipient or to prepare the
4 report required by this section.

5 SECTION 9. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMPETITIVE
6 GRANT PILOT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The department may actively seek
7 and apply for any available federal funds or grants from any source
8 to assist in financing the competitive grant pilot program
9 established under this Act.

10 (b) The department may use appropriated funds and may accept
11 gifts, donations, and grants of money from the federal government,
12 local governments, private corporations, or other persons to assist
13 in financing the competitive grant pilot program.

14 SECTION 10. EXPIRATION. This Act expires December 31,
15 2011.

16 SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
17 September 1, 2009.