

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 2625

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to financial assistance provided to certain persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 31.003, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) During the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2009, the one-time emergency assistance payment made to an applicant for financial assistance who is eligible for, but opts to not receive, financial assistance must be in the amount of \$1,500. This subsection expires September 1, 2010.

(e) In addition to any other financial assistance payments made, the Health and Human Services Commission shall provide a one-time supplemental assistance payment of \$500 to each applicant for financial assistance who is determined eligible for and begins receiving that assistance for the person and the person's family during the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2009, and to each person whose eligibility for financial assistance provided to or for the person and the person's family is recertified during the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2009. This subsection expires September 1, 2010.

SECTION 2. Section 31.0032, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), during the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2009, the Health and Human Services

1 Commission may not apply or continue to apply a sanction
2 terminating financial assistance as required by that subsection if,
3 during the month in which that sanction would be applied, the
4 unemployment rate in this state exceeds five percent. The
5 commission shall instead apply as a sanction during that month a
6 reduction of \$25 in the total amount of financial assistance that
7 would be provided under this chapter to or for a person and the
8 person's family if no sanction were applied. This subsection
9 expires September 1, 2010.

10 SECTION 3. Section 31.0041, Human Resources Code, is
11 amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

12 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), supplemental
13 financial assistance provided to a person under Subsection (b)
14 during the state fiscal year beginning September 1, 2009, must be in
15 the amount of \$1,500. This subsection expires September 1, 2010.

16 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply to:

17 (1) a person who applies for financial assistance
18 under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, on or after the effective
19 date of this Act; and

20 (2) a person who receives financial assistance for the
21 person or the person's family on or after the effective date of this
22 Act, regardless of whether the person's eligibility for that
23 assistance was determined before, on, or after the effective date
24 of this Act.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.