

By: Patrick

H.B. No. 2632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a demonstration project to reduce social isolation among the elderly.

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 161.082 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.082. SOCIAL ISOLATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT. (a)

In this section, "area agency on aging" means an agency described by 42 U.S.C. Section 3002(6) and through which the department ensures the implementation of services and volunteer opportunities for older persons in this state as provided by Section 161.071(5)(A).

(b) The department, in coordination with area agencies on aging, shall establish not more than 10 demonstration projects throughout the state to identify and assist socially isolated elderly individuals.

(c) A demonstration project created under this section must include a variety of volunteer opportunities to assist socially isolated elderly individuals, including:

(1) transportation;

(2) minor home repair;

(3) shopping assistance;

(4) installation of wheelchair ramps;

(5) installation or management of safety equipment;

(6) yard maintenance;

- 1 (7) food bank pickup;
- 2 (8) household chores;
- 3 (9) visits by telephone and in person;
- 4 (10) meals; and
- 5 (11) information and referrals to services.

6 (d) In establishing demonstration projects under this
7 section, the department shall consider the design of the Neighbor
8 Helping Neighbor program developed in Tarrant County.

9 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
10 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
11 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
12 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
13 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
14 waiver or authorization is granted.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.