

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 3232

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a service conversion opportunity grant 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 161.086 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.086. SERVICE CONVERSION OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Grant program" means the service conversion opportunity grant program established under this section.

(2) "Sheltered employment services provider" means a day habilitation service provider or a sheltered workshop under contract with the department, commission, or another health and human services agency, as defined by Section 531.001, Government Code, to provide employment services to persons with disabilities.

(b) To the extent funds are available, the department, in cooperation with the commission, shall establish a grant program to assist sheltered employment services providers in restructuring the manner in which the providers use financial and staff resources in order to provide employment services to persons with disabilities in a more integrated, community-based setting and to maximize any funding sources available for that purpose.

(c) To be eligible to receive funds under the grant program, a sheltered employment services provider must:

1 (1) apply to the department on a form prescribed by the
2 department; and

3 (2) meet eligibility requirements established by the
4 department.

5 (d) An application for a grant under this section must
6 contain a plan for the applicant's proposed use of grant funds,
7 including a description of how the provider will use the funds to
8 become a provider of more integrated, community-based employment
9 services.

10 (e) The department shall consider the following factors in
11 determining whether to award a grant under this section:

12 (1) the anticipated benefits from awarding the grant,
13 including the potential to create additional integrated,
14 community-based employment opportunities for persons with
15 disabilities;

16 (2) the applicant's qualifications; and

17 (3) the feasibility and financial soundness of the
18 applicant's plan.

19 (f) A grant recipient may use grant funds only to pay for
20 activities directly related to the purpose of the grant program as
21 described by Subsection (b) and may not use grant money for fees or
22 advertising.

23 (g) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
24 to implement this section.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.