

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 3996

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the state disbursement unit to disburse payments to obligees electronically.

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

SECTION 1. Section 234.010, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 234.010. DIRECT DEPOSIT OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.

(a) The state disbursement unit authorized under this chapter shall ~~may~~ transmit a child support payment to an obligee by:

(1) electronic funds transfer if the obligee maintains an account with a financial institution; or

(2) electronic benefits transfer, such as a debit card, to an account established by the Title IV-D agency or the state disbursement unit.

(b) The work group convened under this subchapter may develop a plan to assist an obligee who does not have an account with a financial institution to obtain an account.

~~(c) [The work group may determine whether it is feasible and cost-effective for the state to administer an electronic benefits transfer system for child support obligees and may recommend implementation of such a system to the Title IV-D agency.]~~

~~[(d) After receiving any recommendations by the work group under Subsection (c), the Title IV-D agency or the vendor selected by the Title IV-D agency to operate the state disbursement unit may~~

1 ~~provide for electronic benefits transfer, if the request for~~  
2 ~~proposals issued by the Title IV-D agency and any contract~~  
3 ~~resulting from the selection of a vendor to provide the services~~  
4 ~~specified in the request for proposals provides for electronic~~  
5 ~~benefits transfer.]~~

6       ~~[(e)]~~ The work group may recommend and the Title IV-D agency  
7 may establish procedures to implement this section.

8       (d) For payments under Subsection (a)(2) ~~[(f) The Title~~  
9 ~~IV-D agency, after receiving the recommendation of the work group,~~  
10 ~~may require an obligee to receive payments by direct deposit to the~~  
11 ~~obligee's bank account or]~~ by electronic benefits transfer, ~~[to]~~ an  
12 account established by the Title IV-D agency or the state  
13 disbursement unit must be ~~[if the account is]~~ established at no cost  
14 to the obligee.

15       SECTION 2. Section 234.011, Family Code, is repealed.

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