

1-1 By: Weber, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Van de Putte) H.B. No. 4009  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 15, 2009;  
1-3 May 18, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal  
1-4 Justice; May 22, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 22, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the establishment of a victim assistance program to  
1-9 provide services to domestic victims of trafficking.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by  
1-12 adding Subchapter J-1 to read as follows:

1-13 SUBCHAPTER J-1. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF  
1-14 TRAFFICKING

1-15 Sec. 531.381. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-16 (1) "Domestic victim" means a victim of trafficking  
1-17 who is a permanent legal resident or citizen of the United States.

1-18 (2) "Victim of trafficking" has the meaning assigned  
1-19 by 22 U.S.C. Section 7102.

1-20 Sec. 531.382. VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. The  
1-21 commission shall develop and implement a program designed to assist  
1-22 domestic victims, including victims who are children, in accessing  
1-23 necessary services. The program must consist of at least the  
1-24 following components:

1-25 (1) a searchable database of assistance programs for  
1-26 domestic victims, including programs that provide mental health  
1-27 services, other health services, services to meet victims' basic  
1-28 needs, case management services, and any other services the  
1-29 commission considers appropriate, that may be used to match victims  
1-30 with appropriate resources;

1-31 (2) the grant program described by Section 531.383;

1-32 (3) recommended training programs for judges,  
1-33 prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel; and

1-34 (4) an outreach initiative to ensure that victims,  
1-35 judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel are aware of the  
1-36 availability of services through the program.

1-37 Sec. 531.383. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) Subject to available  
1-38 funds, the commission shall establish a grant program to award  
1-39 grants to public and nonprofit organizations that provide  
1-40 assistance to domestic victims, including organizations that  
1-41 provide public awareness activities, community outreach and  
1-42 training, victim identification services, and legal services.

1-43 (b) To apply for a grant under this section, an applicant  
1-44 must submit an application in the form and manner prescribed by the  
1-45 commission. An applicant must describe in the application the  
1-46 services the applicant intends to provide to domestic victims if  
1-47 the grant is awarded.

1-48 (c) In awarding grants under this section, the commission  
1-49 shall give preference to organizations that have experience in  
1-50 successfully providing the types of services for which the grants  
1-51 are awarded.

1-52 (d) A grant recipient shall provide reports as required by  
1-53 the commission regarding the use of grant funds.

1-54 (e) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,  
1-55 the commission shall submit a report to the legislature summarizing  
1-56 the activities, funding, and outcomes of programs awarded a grant  
1-57 under this section and providing recommendations regarding the  
1-58 grant program.

1-59 Sec. 531.384. TRAINING PROGRAMS. The commission, with  
1-60 assistance from the Office of Court Administration of the Texas  
1-61 Judicial System, the Department of Public Safety, and local law  
1-62 enforcement agencies, shall create training programs designed to  
1-63 increase the awareness of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement  
1-64 personnel of the needs of domestic victims, the availability of

2-1 services under this subchapter, the database of services described  
2-2 by Section 531.382, and potential funding sources for those  
2-3 services.

2-4 Sec. 531.385. FUNDING. (a) The commission may use  
2-5 appropriated funds and may accept gifts, grants, and donations from  
2-6 any sources for purposes of the victim assistance program  
2-7 established under this subchapter.

2-8 (b) The commission shall conduct a study regarding  
2-9 additional funding strategies for the victim assistance program.  
2-10 In conducting the study, the commission, in cooperation with  
2-11 appropriate governmental entities, shall identify appropriate  
2-12 revenue streams, which may include revenue derived from:

2-13 (1) revenue streams similar to those used to fund  
2-14 crime victims' compensation under Subchapter B, Chapter 56, Code of  
2-15 Criminal Procedure;

2-16 (2) imposing additional court costs on defendants on  
2-17 conviction of certain offenses;

2-18 (3) imposing additional fees on the filing of civil  
2-19 cases;

2-20 (4) acquiring from law enforcement agencies the  
2-21 proceeds from assets seized or forfeited under state or federal  
2-22 law; and

2-23 (5) any other source identified by the commission.

2-24 (c) The commission shall submit a report regarding the  
2-25 results of the study conducted under Subsection (b) to the 82nd  
2-26 Legislature not later than December 1, 2010. The report must  
2-27 include the commission's findings regarding appropriate revenue  
2-28 streams for the victim assistance program, proposed legislation  
2-29 necessary to receive the revenue for that purpose, and proposed  
2-30 legislation regarding the establishment of a dedicated account to  
2-31 which the revenue may be credited.

2-32 (d) This subsection and Subsections (b) and (c) expire  
2-33 January 1, 2011.

2-34 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

2-35 \* \* \* \* \*