

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 4023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study and report on the feasibility of providing
3 services and benefits under federally funded public benefit
4 programs to encourage fathers' involvement beginning during
5 pregnancy.

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

7 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

8 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services
9 Commission.

10 (2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
11 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

12 (3) "Federally funded public benefit program" means a
13 federally funded assistance program administered by the commission
14 or a health and human services agency, including:

15 (A) the child health plan program under Chapter
16 62, Health and Safety Code;

17 (B) the medical assistance program under Chapter
18 32, Human Resources Code;

19 (C) programs operated by the Texas Primary Care
20 Office at the Department of State Health Services;

21 (D) the federal Special Supplemental Nutrition
22 Program for Women, Infants and Children; and

23 (E) programs funded under the Maternal and Child
24 Health Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. Section 701 et seq.), as

1 amended.

2 (4) "Health and human services agencies" has the
3 meaning assigned by Section 531.001, Government Code.

4 SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The commission shall conduct a study
5 to evaluate the feasibility of providing benefits or services under
6 federally funded public benefit programs to encourage the
7 involvement of prospective fathers of the unborn children of
8 pregnant women receiving health care services under those programs,
9 including the feasibility of providing simple health screening
10 services to those fathers that are similar to the health screening
11 services provided to the prospective mothers, to the extent those
12 services are appropriate.

13 (b) In conducting the study under Subsection (a) of this
14 section, the commission shall:

15 (1) evaluate and identify funding sources available
16 under federally funded public benefit programs to provide the
17 benefits and services to prospective fathers as described by
18 Subsection (a) of this section, including the possibility of
19 obtaining a federal waiver or other authorization under a federally
20 funded public benefit program to provide those services and
21 benefits; and

22 (2) consider the ability of health care providers
23 participating in federally funded public benefit programs to
24 provide the benefits and services described by Subsection (a) of
25 this section.

26 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2010, the
27 commission shall submit to the legislature a written report

1 containing the findings of the study conducted under this Act and
2 the commission's recommendations.

3 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
4 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
5 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
6 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
7 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.