

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 50

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of the lifespan respite services pilot
3 program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 161, Human Resources Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 161.076 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 161.076. LIFESPAN RESPITE SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM. (a)
8 In this section, "respite services" means support services,
9 including in-home services, adult day-care services, and
10 facility-based services, that are provided for the purpose of
11 temporarily giving relief to a primary caregiver who provides
12 ongoing care to an individual with a chronic illness or disability.

13 (b) The department shall develop and implement the lifespan
14 respite services pilot program to promote the provision of respite
15 services. As part of the pilot program, the department shall
16 contract with community-based organizations or local governmental
17 entities selected by the department to provide respite services or
18 to facilitate access to local respite services. A contract may be
19 awarded under this subsection only after the department issues a
20 request for proposals regarding the contract.

21 (c) A community-based organization or local governmental
22 entity that receives a contract under this section to facilitate
23 access to local respite services may:

24 (1) recruit and train respite services providers;

1 (2) maintain a registry of respite services providers;

2 (3) connect caregivers with available respite
3 services providers or programs;

4 (4) identify, coordinate, and develop community
5 resources for respite services;

6 (5) build local partnerships with respect to respite
7 services;

8 (6) implement public awareness activities regarding
9 respite services; and

10 (7) subject to the availability of funds, provide
11 vouchers for respite services to eligible primary caregivers who
12 are not eligible for respite services provided through other
13 programs.

14 (d) In implementing the pilot program, the department
15 shall:

16 (1) provide technical assistance to community-based
17 organizations and local governmental entities that receive a
18 contract under this section;

19 (2) provide policy and program development support for
20 organizations and entities described by Subdivision (1);

21 (3) monitor the activities for which the department
22 contracts under this section; and

23 (4) select the areas of this state in which to
24 implement the pilot program.

25 (e) In developing the pilot program, the department shall
26 review similar initiatives in other states.

27 (f) This section expires September 1, 2013.

1 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2010, the Department
2 of Aging and Disability Services, in consultation with the
3 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission,
4 shall submit a report to the governor and the Legislative Budget
5 Board regarding the lifespan respite services pilot program
6 established under Section 161.076, Human Resources Code, as added
7 by this Act. The report must include an evaluation of the effect of
8 the pilot program on:

9 (1) access to respite services by primary caregivers
10 of persons with chronic illnesses or disabilities; and

11 (2) Medicaid expenditures for long-term care services
12 provided in institutional care settings.

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