

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a wellness grant program for individuals with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 117, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 117.077 to read as follows:

Sec. 117.077. WELLNESS GRANT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. (a) The department shall establish a program to award grants to public and nonprofit organizations that promote good health, disease prevention, and wellness for individuals with disabilities.

(b) To apply for a grant under this section, an applicant must submit an application in the form and manner prescribed by the department.

(c) The types of programs that may be funded by grants under this section include:

(1) programs designed to assist with smoking cessation, weight control, nutrition, or fitness that focus on the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities;

(2) preventive health screening programs to reduce the incidence of secondary conditions; and

(3) athletic, exercise, or sports programs that provide individuals with disabilities an opportunity to increase the individual's level of physical activity in a dedicated or

1 adaptive recreational environment.

2 (d) The executive commissioner may appoint an advisory
3 committee consisting of interested individuals with relevant
4 expertise to:

5 (1) review grant applications and make
6 recommendations to the department; and

7 (2) evaluate the progress of the program.

8 (e) The department shall establish an outreach program to
9 inform public and nonprofit organizations of the existence of the
10 grant program and the application requirements.

11 (f) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
12 the department shall submit a report to the legislature summarizing
13 the activities, funding, and outcomes of programs awarded a grant
14 under this section and providing recommendations regarding the
15 grant program.

16 (g) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
17 donations of money from the federal government, local governments,
18 private corporations, and other persons to be used for the purposes
19 of the grant program.

20 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
21 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
22 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
23 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
24 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
25 waiver or authorization is granted.

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