

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 1861

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain programs and pilot programs administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 2306.0971 and 2306.0972 to read as follows:

Sec. 2306.0971. SUPPLEMENTAL WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) In addition to the Energy Services Program for Low-Income Individuals established under Section 2306.097, the department shall establish a program that provides financial assistance for residential weatherization measures that do not qualify for the state's allocation of federal funds under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program but that, if performed, would allow a person to receive that federal assistance.

(b) The department by rule shall establish eligibility criteria for a person to receive financial assistance for residential weatherization measures under this section. The criteria must ensure that any weatherization measures performed will allow a person to receive federal assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

(c) The department shall collaborate with the state energy conservation office and the Energy Systems Laboratory at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station of The Texas A&M University System

1 to identify cost-effective residential weatherization measures
2 that allow persons to qualify for the Low Income Home Energy
3 Assistance Program.

4 Sec. 2306.0972. WEATHERIZATION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
5 department may establish a pilot program to study the effectiveness
6 of weatherization measures in increasing residential energy
7 efficiency for individuals and families of low income.

8 (b) If the department establishes a pilot program under this
9 section, not later than December 1, 2010, the department shall
10 submit a report to the legislature regarding its findings and
11 recommendations under the pilot program.

12 (c) This section expires September 1, 2011.

13 SECTION 2. Subchapter K, Chapter 2306, Government Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 2306.260 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 2306.260. USE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO FUND
16 PILOT PROGRAMS. The department may fund existing pilot programs or
17 create new pilot programs as appropriate using federal supplemental
18 appropriations under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
19 2009 (Pub. L. No. 111-5) or any other similar federal legislation
20 that is enacted on or after January 1, 2009. This section expires
21 December 31, 2011.

22 SECTION 3. The Texas Department of Housing and Community
23 Affairs shall adopt the rules required by Section 2306.0971,
24 Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1,
25 2009.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.