

By: Villarreal, et al.

H.B. No. 824

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an outreach campaign to promote fathers' involvement with their children before birth.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 32.0211 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.0211. WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE FATHERS' INVOLVEMENT. (a) The attorney general shall:

(1) subject to Subsections (b) and (c), develop and periodically update a publication that:

(A) describes the importance and long-term positive effects on children of a father's involvement during a mother's pregnancy; and

(B) provides guidance to prospective fathers on the positive actions that they can take to support the pregnant mother during pregnancy and the effect those actions have on pregnancy outcomes; and

(2) make the publication described by Subdivision (1) available to any agency, organization, or other entity that contracts with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children and on the attorney general's Internet website in a format that allows the public to download and print the publication.

1 (b) The publication developed by the attorney general under
2 Subsection (a) must include:

3 (1) information regarding the steps that unmarried
4 parents must take if the parents want to establish legal paternity
5 and the benefits of paternity establishment for children;

6 (2) a worksheet to help fathers identify personal risk
7 behaviors, including smoking, substance abuse, and unemployment;

8 (3) information regarding how a father's personal risk
9 behaviors may affect the father's child and a guide to resources
10 that are available to the father to assist in making necessary
11 lifestyle changes;

12 (4) information for fathers about the mother's
13 prenatal health, including the emotional and physical changes a
14 mother will experience throughout pregnancy, the mother's
15 nutritional needs, and an explanation of how the father may help the
16 mother meet those needs;

17 (5) an explanation of prenatal health care visits,
18 including an explanation of what they are and what to expect, and
19 the practical ways a father may support the mother throughout
20 pregnancy;

21 (6) information regarding a child's prenatal health,
22 including the child's developmental stages, the importance of
23 attending prenatal health care visits, the practical ways a father
24 may contribute to healthy baby outcomes, and actions the father may
25 take to prepare for the birth of a child;

26 (7) an explanation regarding prenatal tests,
27 including an explanation of what the tests are and what tests to

1 expect;

2 (8) basic infant care information, including:

3 (A) information regarding the basics of
4 dressings, diapering, bathing, consoling, and stimulating an
5 infant;

6 (B) health and safety issues, including issues
7 relating to nutritional information, sleep needs and expectations,
8 baby-proofing a home, and what to expect at the first well-child
9 visits; and

10 (C) information on bonding and attachment and how
11 each relates to an infant's development;

12 (9) healthy relationship and coparenting information,
13 including communication strategies, conflict resolution
14 strategies, and problem-solving techniques for coparenting;

15 (10) worksheets, activities, and exercises to aid
16 fathers and the couple in exploring the following topics:

17 (A) personal ideas about fatherhood and the role
18 of the father in the family system;

19 (B) the immediate and long-term benefits of
20 father involvement specific to their family; and

21 (C) perceived barriers to father involvement and
22 strategies for overcoming those barriers; and

23 (11) activities and projects for fathers that increase
24 the fathers' understanding of the stages of child developmental and
25 health and safety issues.

26 (c) In developing the publication required by Subsection
27 (a), the attorney general shall consult with:

1 (1) the department as the state agency responsible for
2 administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for
3 Women, Infants and Children and this state's program under the
4 Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
5 Section 701 et seq.); and

6 (2) the Texas Council on Family Violence.

7 (d) An agency, organization, or other entity that contracts
8 with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants
9 and Children shall make the publication described by Subsection (a)
10 available to each client receiving clinical or nutritional services
11 under the program.

12 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 32.0211(d), Health and
13 Safety Code, as added by this Act, the Department of State Health
14 Services and an agency, organization, or other entity providing
15 services under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for
16 Women, Infants and Children are not required to comply with that
17 section until the attorney general makes the publication available
18 as described by Section 32.0211(a)(2), Health and Safety Code, as
19 added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. 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 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.