

By: Farias

H.B. No. 2820

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of a pilot program in Bexar County to  
3 provide an educational course to certain parents on the effects of  
4 child abuse and neglect.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 263, Family Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 263.107 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 263.107. EDUCATIONAL COURSE PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In  
9 this section, "abuse" and "neglect" have the meanings assigned by  
10 Section 261.001.

11 (b) The department shall establish a pilot program in Bexar  
12 County that requires a parent receiving services from the  
13 department in Bexar County and against whom the department has made  
14 a finding of abuse or neglect to complete an educational course on  
15 the effects of child abuse and neglect on a child. The department  
16 shall require completion of the educational course as a condition  
17 of the service plan for the parent.

18 (c) The educational course must include at least 16 hours of  
19 education regarding the effects of child abuse and neglect on a  
20 child and the child's family, including the impact of abuse and  
21 neglect on the child's physical, psychological, and emotional  
22 well-being.

23 (d) The department may contract with a private entity to  
24 provide the course.

1       (e) The department shall establish a reasonable enrollment  
2 fee for the course to be paid by the parent. The department may  
3 waive or reduce the enrollment fee for an indigent parent.

4       (f) The department shall report to the lieutenant governor,  
5 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the members of the  
6 legislature not later than January 1, 2013, on the results of the  
7 pilot program and the effect the educational course has had on child  
8 abuse and neglect cases in Bexar county. The report must include the  
9 department's recommendations on improvements to the program and  
10 whether the program should be continued on a statewide basis.

11       (g) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
12 this section.

13       (h) This section expires September 1, 2013.

14       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.