

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1867

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to premarital education courses.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 2, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 2.0131 to read as follows:

Sec. 2.0131. CONTRACTS FOR PREMARITAL EDUCATION COURSES.

(a) The Health and Human Services Commission shall enter into a contract with a nonprofit organization based in this state to administer and coordinate the courses offered under Section 2.013.

The administration and coordination functions performed under the contract include:

(1) ensuring service delivery in all areas of the state;

(2) coordinating local resources working in the area of healthy marriage development, including faith-based and community organizations;

(3) providing:

(A) leadership and administrative functions;

(B) financial management services;

(C) technical support; and

(D) marketing support; and

(4) researching and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of the premarital education courses offered.

(b) The contract must require the nonprofit organization to

1 operate an Internet website that:

2 (1) allows couples planning to marry to find a  
3 premarital education course by geographic location;

4 (2) allows a provider of premarital education courses  
5 to register with the nonprofit organization to indicate the  
6 skills-based and research-based curriculum in which the registrant  
7 is trained; and

8 (3) raises funds for the organization by selling  
9 advertising space to entities that sell products or services that  
10 promote healthy marriages.

11 (c) Money in the trust fund under Section 2.014 may be  
12 disbursed under a contract entered into under this section for the  
13 nonprofit organization's administration and coordination of  
14 premarital education courses offered in this state.

15 (d) The nonprofit organization under this section may also  
16 solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations to fulfill its  
17 duties under the contract.

18 (e) Notwithstanding Section 2.013(c), if the nonprofit  
19 organization determines that insufficient courses are available in  
20 an area of the state, the nonprofit organization may designate  
21 online courses that meet the requirements of Section 2.013 for  
22 residents of that area.

23 (f) Only a resident of an area of the state described by  
24 Subsection (e) may obtain a certificate by taking an online course  
25 approved by the nonprofit organization.

26 SECTION 2. Section 2.014(b), Family Code, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

1 (b) Money in the trust fund is derived from deposits  
2 [~~depositing \$3 of each marriage license fee as~~] authorized under  
3 Section 118.022 [~~118.018(c)~~], Local Government Code, and may be  
4 used only for:

5 (1) the development and distribution of a premarital  
6 education handbook; and

7 (2) [~~grants to institutions of higher education having~~  
8 ~~academic departments that are capable of research on marriage and~~  
9 ~~divorce that will assist in determining programs, courses, and~~  
10 ~~policies to help strengthen families and assist children whose~~  
11 ~~parents are divorcing,~~

12 [~~(3)~~] support for a nonprofit organization pursuant to  
13 a contract under Section 2.0131 [~~counties~~] to [~~create or~~]  
14 administer and coordinate the [~~free or low-cost~~] premarital  
15 education courses described by Section 2.013 [~~+~~

16 [~~(4) programs intended to reduce the amount of~~  
17 ~~delinquent child support, and~~

18 [~~(5) other programs the attorney general determines~~  
19 ~~will assist families in this state].~~

20 SECTION 3. Section 118.022, Local Government Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 118.022. DISPOSITION OF MARRIAGE LICENSE AND  
23 DECLARATION FEES. [~~(a)~~] If the county clerk collects a fee for  
24 issuing a marriage license, the county clerk shall deposit, as  
25 provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 133, \$30 [~~+~~

26 [~~(1) \$20~~] of each fee collected for issuing a marriage  
27 license or \$12.50 of each fee for recording a declaration of

1 informal marriage to be sent to the comptroller and deposited [~~as~~  
2 ~~provided by Subsection (b), and~~

3  ~~[(2) \$10 of each fee collected for issuing a marriage~~  
4  ~~license to be sent to the comptroller and deposited as provided by~~  
5  ~~Subsection (c).]~~

6  ~~[(b) The comptroller shall deposit the money received under~~  
7  ~~Subsection (a)(1) to the credit of the child abuse and neglect~~  
8  ~~prevention trust fund account established under Section 40.105,~~  
9  ~~Human Resources Code.]~~

10  ~~[(c) The comptroller shall deposit the money received under~~  
11  ~~Subsection (a)(2)]~~ to the credit of the family trust fund account  
12 established under Section 2.014, Family Code.

13 SECTION 4. (a) Section 2.013(e), Family Code, is repealed.

14 (b) Section 40.105, Human Resources Code, is repealed.

15 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
16 to fees for a marriage license or declaration of informal marriage  
17 collected on or after the effective date of this Act.

18 SECTION 6. The Health and Human Services Commission shall  
19 enter into a contract under Section 2.0131, Family Code, as added by  
20 this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
21 Act and shall transition any existing data on premarital education  
22 courses offered in this state to the nonprofit organization that is  
23 a party to the contract.

24 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.