

By: Burkett, et al.

H.B. No. 1191

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain information about housing for persons with mental illness provided through the Texas Information and Referral Network Internet site.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.03132 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.03132. ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO REFERRAL INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSING OPTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. (a) The commission shall make available through the Texas Information and Referral Network Internet site established under Section 531.0313 information regarding housing options for persons with mental illness provided by public or private entities throughout the state. The Internet site will serve as a single point of access through which a person may be directed on how or where to apply for housing for persons with mental illness in the person's community. In this subsection, "private entity" includes any provider of housing specifically for persons with mental illness other than a state agency, municipality, county, or other political subdivision of this state, regardless of whether the provider accepts payment for providing housing for persons with mental illness.

(b) To the extent resources are available, the Internet site must be geographically indexed and designed to inform a person about the housing options for persons with mental illness provided

1 in the area where the person lives.

2 (c) The Internet site must contain a searchable listing of
3 available housing options for persons with mental illness by type,
4 with a definition for each type of housing and an explanation of the
5 populations of persons with mental illness generally served by that
6 type of housing. The list must contain at a minimum the following
7 types of housing for persons with mental illness:

8 (1) state hospitals;

9 (2) step-down units in state hospitals;

10 (3) community hospitals;

11 (4) private psychiatric hospitals;

12 (5) a provider of inpatient treatment services in the
13 network of service providers assembled by a local mental health
14 authority under Section 533.035(e), Health and Safety Code;

15 (6) assisted living facilities;

16 (7) continuing care facilities;

17 (8) boarding homes;

18 (9) emergency shelters for homeless persons;

19 (10) transitional housing intended to move homeless
20 persons to permanent housing;

21 (11) supportive housing, or long-term,
22 community-based affordable housing that provides supportive
23 services;

24 (12) general residential operations, as defined by
25 Section 42.002, Human Resources Code; and

26 (13) residential treatment centers, or a type of
27 general residential operation that provides services to children

1 with emotional disorders in a structured and supportive
2 environment.

3 (d) For each housing facility named in the listing of
4 available housing options for persons with mental illness, the
5 Internet site must indicate whether the provider that operates the
6 housing facility is licensed by the state.

7 (e) The Internet site must display a disclaimer that the
8 information provided is for informational purposes only and is not
9 an endorsement or recommendation of any type of housing or any
10 housing facility.

11 (f) Each entity providing housing specifically for persons
12 with mental illness in this state, including the Department of
13 State Health Services, municipalities, counties, other political
14 subdivisions of this state, and private entities, shall cooperate
15 with the Texas Information and Referral Network as necessary in the
16 administration of this section.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.