

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 1341

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a nutrition and wellness education pilot program for certain recipients of certain state benefits.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0995 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0995. NUTRITION AND WELLNESS EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) If the commission determines that it is cost-effective and feasible with available funds, the commission shall establish a pilot program in Harris County to provide a nutrition and wellness education course that promotes making healthy food and lifestyle choices to each person residing in the pilot program area who is determined eligible or recertified as eligible for benefits under:

(1) the financial assistance program under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

(2) the medical assistance program under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code; and

(3) the supplemental nutrition assistance program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code.

(b) If the commission implements the pilot program, the commission shall require a person described by Subsection (a)(1) or (3) to complete the course described by Subsection (a) as a condition of continued eligibility for the applicable benefits.

1        (c) Not later than January 1, 2015, the commission shall  
2 report to the legislature on the pilot program. The report must  
3 include:

4            (1) an evaluation of the pilot program's success, if  
5 the pilot program was implemented;

6            (2) an explanation of why the pilot program was not  
7 determined to be cost-effective and feasible with available funds,  
8 if the pilot program was not implemented; and

9            (3) a recommendation as to whether the pilot program  
10 should be continued, expanded, or implemented in the future, as  
11 applicable.

12        (d) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement  
13 this section.

14        (e) This section expires September 1, 2015.

15        SECTION 2. Section 531.0995(b), Government Code, as added  
16 by this Act, applies to a person for whom an initial determination  
17 or recertification of eligibility for benefits under Chapter 31,  
18 Human Resources Code, or Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, is made  
19 on or after the effective date of 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 September 1, 2013.