

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 924

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to strategic plans to address hunger, food, nutrition, and obesity in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 12.00251 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.00251. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ADDRESSING HUNGER, FOOD, NUTRITION, AND OBESITY. The department shall develop a strategic plan that includes as a goal of the department addressing hunger, food, nutrition, and obesity in this state by:

(1) increasing access to nutritious foods by persons in this state;

(2) increasing access to and participation in the national free or reduced-price lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq. by persons eligible for the program;

(3) strengthening the department's education initiatives to increase awareness of food and nutrition programs in this state by using public service announcements; and

(4) facilitating obesity prevention and diabetes awareness initiatives.

SECTION 2. Section 7.021, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The agency shall develop a strategic plan that includes as a goal of the agency addressing hunger, food, nutrition, and

obesity in this state by:

(1) increasing access to nutritious foods by persons served by the agency;

(2) increasing access to and participation in the national free or reduced-price lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq. by eligible persons served by the agency;

(3) strengthening the agency's education initiatives to increase awareness of food and nutrition programs in this state by using public service announcements; and

(4) facilitating obesity prevention and diabetes awareness initiatives.

SECTION 3. Section 531.022, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) In addition to the goals specified by Subsection (c), the plan must include as a goal of the commission, the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, and the Department of State Health Services addressing hunger, food, nutrition, and obesity in this state by:

(1) increasing access to nutritious foods by persons served by the agencies;

(2) increasing access to and participation in the national free or reduced-price lunch program established under 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq. by eligible persons served by the agencies;

(3) strengthening each agency's education initiatives to increase awareness of food and nutrition programs in this state

1 by using public service announcements; and

2 (4) facilitating obesity prevention and diabetes
3 awareness initiatives.

4 SECTION 4. As soon as possible after the effective date of
5 this Act and using existing funds:

6 (1) the Department of Agriculture shall develop the
7 strategic plan required by Section 12.00251, Agriculture Code, as
8 added by this Act; and

9 (2) the Texas Education Agency shall develop the
10 strategic plan required by Section 7.021(e), Education Code, as
11 added by this Act.

12 SECTION 5. The executive commissioner of the Health and
13 Human Services Commission shall include the goal and methods of
14 implementing that goal specified by Section 531.022(f), Government
15 Code, as added by this Act, in the first biennial update of the
16 coordinated strategic plan for health and human services required
17 by Section 531.022, Government Code, as amended by this Act, that is
18 required after the effective date of this Act.

19 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.