

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study of the Dallas Men Against Abuse program and  
3 other activities in the Dallas community addressing family  
4 violence.

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

6 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

7 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
8 Commission.

9 (2) "Program" means the Dallas Men Against Abuse  
10 program implemented by the City of Dallas.

11 SECTION 2. STUDY REQUIRED. (a) The Health and Human  
12 Services Commission, in conjunction with a statewide coalition on  
13 family violence, shall conduct a study of activities in the Dallas  
14 community addressing family violence, with a specific focus on each  
15 aspect of the Dallas Men Against Abuse program, to determine if any  
16 or all of those activities or program aspects should be implemented  
17 at the state level or in additional local communities or school  
18 districts.

19 (b) In conducting the study, the commission and the  
20 statewide coalition on family violence shall consult with:

21 (1) the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force;  
22 and

23 (2) a researcher with expertise on family violence who  
24 is affiliated with an institution of higher education in this

1 state.

2 SECTION 3. CONTENTS OF STUDY. The study must:

3 (1) examine each aspect of the program;

4 (2) evaluate the effectiveness of each aspect of the  
5 program and the effectiveness of other community activities that  
6 contributed to changes in community responses to family violence,  
7 based on indicators developed in consultation with family violence  
8 experts, including the statewide coalition on family violence  
9 conducting the study in conjunction with the commission and the  
10 researcher described by Section 2(b)(2) of this Act;

11 (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the program in  
12 increasing male involvement in addressing family violence;

13 (4) incorporate background information, such as the  
14 number of calls made to domestic violence hotlines, the number of  
15 prosecutions of offenses involving family violence, and the number  
16 of charges filed in family violence cases, to provide context for  
17 the issue of family violence in the Dallas community and this state;

18 (5) assess the costs associated with the program and  
19 other community activities addressing family violence and sources  
20 of funding;

21 (6) determine the feasibility of implementing any or  
22 all of the program aspects or other community activities addressing  
23 family violence at the state level or in additional local  
24 communities or school districts; and

25 (7) make recommendations to the legislature regarding  
26 implementing any or all of the program aspects or other community  
27 activities addressing family violence at the state level or in

1 additional local communities or school districts.

2           SECTION 4. AGENCY PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION. At the  
3 request of the commission, the Department of Family and Protective  
4 Services and each other health and human services agency under the  
5 authority of the commission shall participate in the study and  
6 provide appropriate assistance. The Texas Education Agency shall  
7 cooperate with the commission as necessary to enable the commission  
8 to assess the feasibility of implementing any or all of the program  
9 aspects or other community activities addressing family violence in  
10 school districts.

11           SECTION 5. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2016, the  
12 commission shall submit a report to the legislature regarding the  
13 results of the study and the commission's recommendations regarding  
14 expanded implementation of any or all program aspects or other  
15 community activities addressing family violence.

16           SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
17 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
18 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
19 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
20 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 77 was passed by the House on April 9, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 130, Nays 13, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 77 on May 29, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 113, Nays 31, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 77 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor