

By: Turner of Harris

H.B. No. 679

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on homeless youth.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter OO to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER OO. HOMELESS YOUTH

Sec. 2306.1101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "homeless youth" means a person who is younger than 19 years of age, including a migratory child, as defined by Section 1309, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6399), who:

(1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a person who is:

(A) temporarily allowed to stay in the house of another person due to loss of housing;

(B) temporarily living in a motel or hotel;

(C) living in an emergency shelter;

(D) abandoned in a hospital; or

(E) awaiting foster care placement;

(2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans; or

(3) is living in a car, park, other public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.

1 Sec. 2306.1102. STUDY ON HOMELESS YOUTH. (a) The
2 department, in conjunction with other members of the Texas
3 Interagency Council for the Homeless established under Subchapter
4 KK, shall conduct a study on homeless youth.

5 (b) In conducting the study, the department shall:

6 (1) collect data on the number of homeless youth in
7 this state;

8 (2) examine the needs of homeless youth and the degree
9 to which current programs are meeting those needs;

10 (3) identify any sources of funding that might be
11 available to provide services to homeless youth; and

12 (4) develop a strategic plan establishing steps to be
13 taken and timelines for reducing youth homelessness in this state.

14 (c) The department shall submit a report on the study to the
15 legislature not later than December 1, 2016. The report must
16 include a summary of the information resulting from the study and
17 recommendations for changes in law necessary to provide services to
18 or otherwise assist homeless youth.

19 (d) This section expires September 1, 2017.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.