

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 25 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 the Department of Family and  
3 Protective Services, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas  
4 Homeless Education Office, 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; and

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

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

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

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