

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 2630

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain programs provided to families of children at risk for abuse and neglect.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.201(d), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The services may include in-home programs, parenting skills training, youth coping skills, and individual and family counseling. If the department requires or a court orders parenting skills training services through a parenting education program, the program must be an evidence-based or promising practice parenting education program described by Section 265.051 that is provided in the community in which the family resides, if available.

SECTION 2. Chapter 265, Family Code, is amended by designating Sections 265.001, 265.002, 265.003, and 265.004 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter heading to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 3. Section 265.004, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) To the extent that money is appropriated for the purpose, the department shall fund evidence-based programs, including parenting education, home visitation, family support services, mentoring, positive youth development programs, and

1 crisis counseling, offered by community-based organizations that
2 are designed to prevent or ameliorate child abuse and neglect. The
3 [~~evidence-based~~] programs funded under this subsection may be
4 offered by a child welfare board established under Section 264.005,
5 a local governmental board granted the powers and duties of a child
6 welfare board under state law, [~~or~~] a children's advocacy center
7 established under Section 264.402, or other persons determined
8 appropriate by the department.

9 (a-1) The department shall ensure that not less than 75
10 percent of the money appropriated for parenting education programs
11 under Subsection (a) funds evidence-based programs described by
12 Section 265.051(b) and that the remainder of that money funds
13 promising practice programs described by Section 265.051(c).

14 (a-2) The department shall actively seek and apply for any
15 available federal funds to support parenting education programs
16 provided under this section.

17 SECTION 4. Chapter 265, Family Code, is amended by adding
18 Subchapter B to read as follows:

19 SUBCHAPTER B. PARENTING EDUCATION

20 Sec. 265.051. PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) A
21 parenting education program provided by the department or ordered
22 by a court under Chapter 264 or this chapter must be an
23 evidence-based program or a promising practice program described by
24 this section.

25 (b) An evidence-based program is a parenting education
26 program that:

27 (1) is research-based and grounded in relevant,

1 empirical knowledge and program-determined outcomes;

2 (2) has comprehensive standards ensuring the highest
3 quality service delivery with continuous improvement in the quality
4 of service delivery;

5 (3) has demonstrated significant positive short-term
6 and long-term outcomes;

7 (4) has been evaluated by at least one rigorous,
8 random, controlled research trial across heterogeneous populations
9 or communities with research results that have been published in a
10 peer-reviewed journal;

11 (5) substantially complies with a program manual or
12 design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration, and
13 frequency of the program services; and

14 (6) employs well-trained and competent staff and
15 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities
16 to the staff.

17 (c) A promising practice program is a parenting education
18 program that:

19 (1) has an active impact evaluation program or
20 demonstrates a schedule for implementing an active impact
21 evaluation program;

22 (2) has been evaluated by at least one outcome-based
23 study demonstrating effectiveness or random, controlled trial in a
24 homogeneous sample;

25 (3) substantially complies with a program manual or
26 design that specifies the purpose, outcomes, duration, and
27 frequency of the program services;

1 (4) employs well-trained and competent staff and
2 provides continual relevant professional development opportunities
3 to the staff; and

4 (5) is research-based and grounded in relevant,
5 empirical knowledge and program-determined outcomes.

6 Sec. 265.052. OUTCOMES OF EVIDENCE-BASED PARENTING
7 EDUCATION. The department shall ensure that a parenting education
8 program provided under Chapter 264 or this chapter achieves
9 favorable behavioral outcomes in at least two of the following
10 areas:

11 (1) improved cognitive development of children;

12 (2) increased school readiness of children;

13 (3) reduced child abuse, neglect, and injury;

14 (4) improved child safety;

15 (5) improved social-emotional development of
16 children;

17 (6) improved parenting skills, including nurturing
18 and bonding;

19 (7) improved family economic self-sufficiency;

20 (8) reduced parental involvement with the criminal
21 justice system; and

22 (9) increased paternal involvement and support.

23 Sec. 265.053. EVALUATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED PARENTING
24 EDUCATION. (a) The department shall adopt outcome indicators to
25 measure the effectiveness of parenting education programs provided
26 under Chapter 264 or this chapter in achieving desired outcomes.

27 (b) The department may work directly with the model

1 developer of a parenting education program to identify appropriate
2 outcome indicators for the program and to ensure that the program
3 substantially complies with the model.

4 (c) The department shall develop internal processes to
5 share information with parenting education programs to assist the
6 department in analyzing the performance of the programs.

7 (d) The department shall use information obtained under
8 this section to:

9 (1) monitor parenting education programs;

10 (2) continually improve the quality of the programs;

11 and

12 (3) evaluate the effectiveness of the programs.

13 Sec. 265.0535. INITIAL REPORT. (a) Not later than December
14 1, 2016, the department shall prepare and submit a report on
15 state-funded parenting education programs to the standing
16 committees of the senate and house of representatives with
17 jurisdiction over child protective services.

18 (b) The report submitted under this section must include:

19 (1) the status and a description of the parenting
20 education programs implemented and a description of the models
21 associated with the programs; and

22 (2) information on the number of families served by
23 the programs, including their demographic information.

24 (c) This section expires January 1, 2017.

25 Sec. 265.054. REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE. (a) Not later than
26 December 1 of each even-numbered year, the department shall prepare
27 and submit a report on state-funded parenting education programs to

1 the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives
2 with jurisdiction over child protective services.

3 (b) A report submitted under this section must include:

4 (1) a description of the parenting education programs
5 implemented and of the models associated with the programs;

6 (2) information on the families served by the
7 programs, including the number of families served and their
8 demographic information;

9 (3) the goals and achieved outcomes of the programs;

10 (4) information on the cost for each family served,
11 including any available third-party return-on-investment analysis;
12 and

13 (5) information explaining the percentage of money
14 spent on evidence-based programs and on promising practice
15 programs.

16 Sec. 265.055. RULES. The executive commissioner of the
17 Health and Human Services Commission may adopt rules as necessary
18 to implement this subchapter.

19 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
20 a program provided under Chapter 265, Family Code, on or after the
21 effective date of this Act.

22 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.