

By: Parker, King of Taylor, Rose, Villalba,
Fallon, et al.

H.B. No. 2718

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a program to allow faith- and community-based organizations to offer supplemental assistance to certain recipients of public assistance.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02482 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02482. FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (a) In this section, "community-based organization" and "faith-based organization" have the meanings assigned by Section 535.001.

(b) The commission shall establish a program under which faith- and community-based organizations may, on the request of the applicant, contact and offer supplemental assistance to an applicant for benefits under:

(1) the financial assistance program under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

(2) the medical assistance program under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code;

(3) the supplemental nutrition assistance program under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code; or

(4) the child health plan program under Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code.

(c) A person must be informed about the program and given

1 the opportunity to enroll at the time of application for benefits
2 described by Subsection (b).

3 (d) The commission shall develop a procedure under which
4 faith- and community-based organizations may apply to participate
5 in the program.

6 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to
7 implement the program established under this section, including
8 rules that:

9 (1) describe the types of faith- and community-based
10 organizations that may apply to participate in the program;

11 (2) facilitate contact between a person who enrolls in
12 the program and a faith- and community-based organization
13 participating in the program that provides supplemental services
14 that may be of assistance to the person; and

15 (3) permit a person enrolled in the program
16 established under this section to terminate the person's enrollment
17 in the program.

18 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
19 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
20 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
21 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
22 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
23 waiver or authorization is granted.

24 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
25 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
26 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement
27 the changes in law made by this Act.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2016.