

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2718

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a program to allow faith- and community-based
3 organizations to offer supplemental assistance to certain
4 recipients of public assistance.

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

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

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

12 (b) The commission shall establish a program under which
13 faith- and community-based organizations may contact and offer
14 supplemental assistance to persons applying for benefits under:

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

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

19 (3) the supplemental nutrition assistance program
20 under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code.

21 (c) A person must be informed about the program and given
22 the opportunity to enroll at the time of application for benefits
23 described by Subsection (b).

24 (d) The commission shall develop a procedure under which

1 faith- and community-based organizations may apply to participate
2 in the program.

3 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to
4 implement the program established under this section, including
5 rules that:

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

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

12 (3) permit a person enrolled in the program
13 established under this section to terminate the person's enrollment
14 in the program.

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

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

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.