

By: King of Taylor

H.B. No. 3971

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of neighborhood and community engagement plans for residents of certain group homes.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 161, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 161.089 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.089. NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLANS FOR GROUP HOMES. (a) For purposes of this section, "group home" means:

(1) a residence in which residential support or supervised living is provided through the Home and Community-Based Services waiver program; or

(2) a residence in which fewer than seven persons reside and in which services are provided through the intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related condition program.

(b) An operator of a group home shall develop and maintain a neighborhood and community engagement plan to promote positive relationships between community members and residents of the group home. The plan must:

(1) address barriers to and facilitate meaningful neighborhood and community interaction and involvement by residents of the group home;

(2) protect the civil rights of residents of the group

1 home; and

2           (3) protect the rights to which residents of the group  
3 home are entitled under the Health Insurance Portability and  
4 Accountability Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-191) and state and  
5 federal fair housing laws.

6           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.