

By: Perry, et al.

S.B. No. 723

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to mandatory participation in certain TANF employment and other programs by certain persons.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 31.0031(a) and (d), Human Resources Code, as amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission shall require each adult recipient and nonrecipient parent to sign a bill of responsibilities that defines the responsibilities of the state and of the recipient or nonrecipient parent, as applicable, and encourages personal responsibility. The commission shall explain to the applicant the work requirements and time-limited benefits in addition to the other provisions of the agreement before the applicant signs the agreement. The commission shall provide each applicant with a copy of the signed agreement. The agreement shall include pertinent case information, including the case number and a listing of the state's benefits.

(d) The responsibility agreement shall require that:

(1) the parent of a dependent child cooperate with the commission and the Title IV-D agency if necessary to establish the paternity of the dependent child and to establish or enforce child support;

(2) if adequate and accessible providers of the

1 services are available in the geographic area and subject to the
2 availability of funds, each dependent child, as appropriate,
3 complete early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment
4 checkups on schedule and receive the immunization series prescribed
5 by Section 161.004, Health and Safety Code, unless the child is
6 exempt under that section;

7 (3) each adult recipient, or teen parent recipient who
8 has completed the requirements regarding school attendance in
9 Subdivision (6), not voluntarily terminate paid employment of at
10 least 30 hours each week without good cause in accordance with rules
11 adopted by the executive commissioner;

12 (4) each adult recipient for whom a needs assessment
13 is conducted participate in an activity to enable that person to
14 become self-sufficient by:

15 (A) continuing the person's education or
16 becoming literate;

17 (B) entering a job placement or employment skills
18 training program;

19 (C) serving as a volunteer in the person's
20 community; or

21 (D) serving in a community work program or other
22 work program approved by the commission;

23 (5) each caretaker relative or parent receiving
24 assistance not use, sell, or possess marihuana or a controlled
25 substance in violation of Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or
26 abuse alcohol;

27 (6) each dependent child younger than 18 years of age

1 or teen parent younger than 19 years of age attend school regularly,
2 unless the child has a high school diploma or high school
3 equivalency certificate or is specifically exempted from school
4 attendance under Section 25.086, Education Code;

5 (7) each recipient comply with commission rules
6 regarding proof of school attendance; ~~and~~

7 (8) each recipient or nonrecipient parent, as
8 applicable, attend appropriate parenting skills training classes,
9 as determined by a [the] needs assessment; and

10 (9) each nonrecipient parent, other than a
11 nonrecipient parent exempt from the requirements, including a
12 nonrecipient parent subject to Section 31.012(c) or (g), satisfy
13 mandatory employment or employment training requirements under
14 Section 31.012.

15 SECTION 2. Section 31.012, Human Resources Code, is amended
16 by amending Subsection (a), as amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the
17 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, and adding Subsection (g)
18 to read as follows:

19 (a) The Health and Human Services Commission shall require
20 that, during any one-month period in which an adult is receiving or
21 the child of a nonrecipient parent is receiving financial
22 assistance under this chapter, the adult or nonrecipient parent, as
23 applicable, shall during that period:

24 (1) work not less than 30 hours a week; or

25 (2) participate for not less than 20 hours a week in an
26 activity established under a Temporary Assistance for Needy
27 Families employment program established under Part A, Subchapter

1 IV, Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 601 et seq.).

2 (g) A nonrecipient parent who receives Supplemental
3 Security Income (SSI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq.
4 is not subject to the requirements of this section. The Texas
5 Workforce Commission may provide services to the nonrecipient
6 parent under this chapter in accordance with rules adopted by the
7 executive commissioner.

8 SECTION 3. Section 31.0126(c), Human Resources Code, as
9 amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular
10 Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

11 (c) In adopting rules governing a program prescribed by this
12 section, the executive commissioner shall:

13 (1) establish ~~[the]~~ criteria consistent with this
14 chapter for determining which recipients and nonrecipient parents
15 who are eligible to participate in the Temporary Assistance for
16 Needy Families employment programs established under Part A,
17 Subchapter IV, Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 601 et seq.),
18 may be required to participate in a particular program; and

19 (2) ensure that a recipient or a nonrecipient parent
20 who is incapable of participating in a particular program is not
21 required to participate in that program.

22 SECTION 4. Sections 31.0135(a) and (b), Human Resources
23 Code, as amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature,
24 Regular Session, 2015, are amended to read as follows:

25 (a) The commission, in cooperation with the Texas Education
26 Agency, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas
27 A&M AgriLife Extension Service, or any other public or private

1 entity, shall develop a parenting skills training program to assist
2 a recipient of assistance under this chapter, including a child who
3 receives assistance on behalf of a dependent child, and a
4 nonrecipient parent. The program shall include nutrition
5 education, budgeting and survival skills, and instruction on the
6 necessity of physical and emotional safety for children.

7 (b) The commission shall require that a caretaker relative
8 or parent who is receiving assistance under this chapter on behalf
9 of a dependent child, including a nonrecipient parent, receive
10 appropriate parenting skills training as needed. The training must
11 include one or more components of the parenting skills training
12 program that the commission determines will be useful to the
13 caretaker relative or parent.

14 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
15 person receiving financial assistance, including a nonrecipient
16 parent, as defined by Section 31.0021, Human Resources Code, on or
17 after the effective date of this Act, regardless of the date the
18 determination of eligibility for that assistance was made.

19 SECTION 6. If before implementing any provision of this Act
20 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
21 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
22 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
23 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
24 waiver or authorization is granted.

25 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.