

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 1928

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the rulemaking authority of the Health and Human Services Commission to provide for the placement of refugees in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Section 531.041, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 531.041. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The commission has all the powers and duties necessary to administer this chapter.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules for gathering and considering community input on the local refugee placement reporting requirements for the United States refugee resettlement program.

(1) The rules must, at a minimum, require the local volunteer agencies to take the following actions:

(a) convene and conduct quarterly refugee placement consultations with state and local government and community stakeholders regarding proposed refugee placement;

(b) obtain feedback on the proposed refugee placement from community stakeholders including but not limited to city, county, and state officials; local health care systems; local school districts; and local law enforcement agencies; and major employers of refugees;

1           (c) consider all feedback obtained prior to  
2 releasing the annual proposed refugee placement report for the  
3 United States Department of State's Reception and Placement (R&P)  
4 program;

5           (d) develop a final refugee placement report for  
6 the national voluntary agencies and Health and Human Services  
7 Commission and include a summary of how stakeholder input  
8 contributed to the final request; and

9           (e) inform all community stakeholders, as  
10 described in Subsection (b), of the annual proposed refugee  
11 placement report.

12           SECTION 2. Not later than May 1, 2016, the Health and Human  
13 Services executive commissioner shall adopt the rules as provided  
14 by Section 531.041(b), Government Code, as added by this Act.

15           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.