

AN ACT

relating to ensuring local governmental and community input in any federal refugee resettlement program established in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0411 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0411. RULES REGARDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

(a) In this section, "local resettlement agency" and "national voluntary agency" have the meanings assigned by 45 C.F.R. Section 400.2.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to ensure that local governmental and community input is included in any refugee placement report required under a federal refugee resettlement program and that governmental entities and officials are provided with related information. In adopting rules under this section, the executive commissioner shall, to the extent permitted under federal law, ensure that:

(1) meetings are convened, at least quarterly, in the communities proposed for refugee placement at which representatives of local resettlement agencies have an opportunity to consult with and obtain feedback from local governmental entities and officials, including municipal and county officials, local school district officials, and representatives of local law enforcement agencies, and from other community stakeholders,

1 including major providers under the local health care system and
2 major employers of refugees, regarding proposed refugee placement;

3 (2) a local resettlement agency:

4 (A) considers all feedback obtained in meetings
5 conducted under Subdivision (1) before preparing a proposed annual
6 report on the placement of refugees for purposes of 8 U.S.C. Section
7 1522(b)(7)(E);

8 (B) informs the state and local governmental
9 entities and officials and community stakeholders described under
10 Subdivision (1) of the proposed annual report; and

11 (C) develops a final annual report for the
12 national voluntary agencies and the commission that includes a
13 summary regarding how stakeholder input contributed to the report;
14 and

15 (3) the commission:

16 (A) obtains from local resettlement agencies the
17 preliminary number of refugees the local resettlement agencies
18 recommended to the national voluntary agencies for placement in
19 communities throughout this state and provides that information to
20 local governmental entities and officials in those communities; and

21 (B) obtains from the United States Department of
22 State or other appropriate federal agency the number of refugees
23 apportioned to this state and provides that information and
24 information regarding the number of refugees intended to be placed
25 in each community in this state to local governmental entities and
26 officials in those communities.

27 SECTION 2. Not later than May 1, 2016, the executive

1 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
2 adopt the rules required under Section 531.0411, Government Code,
3 as added by this Act.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1928 passed the Senate on May 5, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 30, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1928 passed the House, with amendment, on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor