

By: Seliger  
(Price)

S.B. No. 1928

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1928:

By: Raymond

C.S.S.B. No. 1928

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to ensuring local governmental and community input in any  
3 federal refugee resettlement program established in this state.

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

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

7 Sec. 531.0411. RULES REGARDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT. (a)

8 In this section, "local resettlement agency" and "national  
9 voluntary agency" have the meanings assigned by 45 C.F.R. Section  
10 400.2.

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

18 (1) meetings are convened, at least quarterly, in the  
19 communities proposed for refugee placement at which  
20 representatives of local resettlement agencies have an opportunity  
21 to consult with and obtain feedback from local governmental  
22 entities and officials, including municipal and county officials,  
23 local school district officials, and representatives of local law  
24 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.