

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 3091

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to evaluating and improving the provision of prevention  
3 and early intervention services by the Department of Family and  
4 Protective Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 265, Family Code, is  
7 amended by adding Sections 265.007 and 265.008 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 265.007. IMPROVING PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY  
9 INTERVENTION SERVICES. To improve the effectiveness and delivery  
10 of prevention and early intervention services, the department  
11 shall:

12 (1) use a geographic focus to ensure that prevention  
13 and early intervention services are provided to families with the  
14 greatest need;

15 (2) identify the geographic areas that have the  
16 highest need for prevention and early intervention services using:

17 (A) verified external risk terrain modeling; or

18 (B) geographic risk assessments that use risk  
19 indicators of child abuse or neglect and child abuse fatalities;

20 (3) identify geographic areas that have a high need  
21 for prevention and early intervention services but do not have  
22 prevention and early intervention services available in the area or  
23 have only unevaluated prevention and early intervention services  
24 available in the area; and

1           (4) develop strategies for community partners to:

2                   (A) improve the early recognition of child abuse  
3 or neglect;

4                   (B) improve the reporting of child abuse and  
5 neglect; and

6                   (C) prevent child fatalities.

7           Sec. 265.008. EVALUATION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY  
8 INTERVENTION SERVICES. (a) The department and the Texas Higher  
9 Education Coordinating Board shall enter into agreements with  
10 institutions of higher education to conduct efficacy reviews of any  
11 prevention and early intervention services provided under this  
12 chapter that have not previously been evaluated for effectiveness  
13 in a research evaluation that meets the standards described by  
14 Subsection (b). The efficacy review shall include, when possible, a  
15 cost-benefit analysis of the program to the state.

16           (b) A prevention and early intervention services program is  
17 considered to have been previously evaluated if it has been  
18 evaluated by at least one rigorous randomized controlled research  
19 trial across heterogeneous populations or communities, the results  
20 of at least one of which have been published in a peer-reviewed  
21 journal.

22           (c) The department is not required to enter into an  
23 agreement to conduct a program efficacy evaluation under this  
24 section unless:

25                   (1) the department is specifically appropriated money  
26 for the purposes of this section; or

27                   (2) the agreement with the institution of higher

1 education is cost neutral.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.