

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 3092

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to prevention and early intervention services provided by  
3 the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 265.005, Family Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (b) A strategic plan required under this section must:

9 (1) identify methods to leverage other sources of  
10 funding or provide support for existing community-based prevention  
11 efforts;

12 (2) include a needs assessment that identifies  
13 programs to best target the needs of the highest risk populations  
14 and geographic areas;

15 (3) identify the goals and priorities for the  
16 department's overall prevention efforts;

17 (4) report the results of previous prevention efforts  
18 using available information in the plan;

19 (5) identify additional methods of measuring program  
20 effectiveness and results or outcomes;

21 (6) identify methods to collaborate with other state  
22 agencies on prevention efforts; ~~and~~

23 (7) identify specific strategies to implement the plan  
24 and to develop measures for reporting on the overall progress

1 toward the plan's goals; and

2 (8) include a growth strategy with the goal of  
3 increasing the number of families receiving prevention and early  
4 intervention services each year, subject to the availability of  
5 funds, with the initial goal of providing services to 50 percent of  
6 the highest risk families that are eligible to receive services  
7 through home visiting and community-based programs financed with  
8 federal, state, local, or private resources.

9 (f) In this section, "highest risk family" means a family  
10 that has children five years of age or younger and whose family  
11 income is at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty level.

12 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 265, Family Code, is  
13 amended by adding Sections 265.007 and 265.008 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 265.007. IMPROVING PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY  
15 INTERVENTION SERVICES. To improve the effectiveness and delivery  
16 of prevention and early intervention services, the department  
17 shall:

18 (1) use a geographic focus to ensure that prevention  
19 and early intervention services are provided to families with the  
20 greatest need;

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

23 (A) verified external risk terrain modeling; or

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

26 (3) identify geographic areas that have a high need  
27 for prevention and early intervention services but do not have

1 prevention and early intervention services available in the area or  
2 have only unevaluated prevention and early intervention services  
3 available in the area; and

4 (4) develop strategies for community partners to:

5 (A) improve the early recognition of child abuse  
6 or neglect;

7 (B) improve the reporting of child abuse and  
8 neglect; and

9 (C) prevent child fatalities.

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

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

25 (c) The department is not required to enter into an  
26 agreement to conduct a program efficacy evaluation under this  
27 section unless:

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

3           (2) the agreement with the institution of higher  
4 education is cost neutral.

5           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.