

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 4186

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the administration of human services block grant
3 programs

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

5 SECTION 1. Government Code Section 2105 is amended in part
6 to read:

7 Sec. 2105.002. COMBINATION OF PROGRAMS NOT INTENDED TO
8 REDUCE SERVICES. The process of combining categorical federal
9 assistance programs into block grants should not have an overall
10 effect of reducing the relative proportion of services and benefits
11 made available to low-income individuals, elderly individuals,
12 individuals with disabilities, and migrant and seasonal
13 agricultural workers, provided that no individual who would have
14 received services before the categorical assistance program was
15 combined into a block grant shall be ineligible solely because the
16 program has been combined into a block grant.

17 Sec. 2105.005 PRIORITY TO POVERTY PROGRAMS. (a) An agency
18 should give priority to programs that remedy the causes and cycle of
19 poverty if:

20 (1) the alleviation of poverty is a purpose of the
21 block grant; and

22 (2) the agency has discretion over the types of
23 programs that may be funded with the block grant.

24 (b) In administering a block grant, an agency shall consult:

- 1 (1) low-income recipients;
- 2 (2) low-income intended recipients; and
- 3 (3) organizations representing low-income
- 4 individuals.

5 (c) To the extent consistent with the purpose of the block
6 grant, an agency's rules shall ensure that providers use block
7 grant funds to the maximum benefit of low-income recipients and
8 intended recipients and shall ensure, in regard to any categorical
9 program administered by the provider which has been combined into a
10 block grant, that no individual who would have been eligible to
11 receive services before the categorical assistance program was
12 combined into a block grant shall be ineligible solely because the
13 program has been combined into a block grant.

14 Sec. 2105.054. NOTICE OF HEARING. (a) An agency shall:

15 (1) provide notice of a public hearing regarding the
16 plan for a block grant not later than the 15th day before the date of
17 the hearing;

18 (2) post the notice in a conspicuous place in each
19 agency office;

20 (3) include in the notice a clear and concise
21 description of the matters to be considered including but not
22 limited to the extent of anticipated reductions or increases in
23 services under the block grant and a statement of the manner in
24 which written comments may be submitted;

25 (4) maintain lists of interested persons;

26 (5) mail notices of hearings to interested persons;

27 and

1 (6) conduct other activities necessary to promote
2 public participation in the public hearing.

3 (b) A notice prepared under this section must be printed in
4 English and Spanish.

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