

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1540

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the certification, training, and supervision of
3 certified family partners and the provision of peer support
4 services by certified family partners to the family or primary
5 caregiver of certain children with serious emotional disturbance,
6 including the provision of those services under the medical
7 assistance program.

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

9 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 531.09992 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 531.09992. CERTIFIED FAMILY PARTNERS. The executive
12 commissioner by rule shall:

13 (1) establish training, certification, and
14 supervision requirements for a person to be certified as a family
15 partner and, as a certified family partner, to provide peer support
16 services to the family or primary caregiver of a child not younger
17 than three years of age and not older than 17 years of age, who has a
18 serious emotional disturbance; and

19 (2) define the scope of peer support services a
20 certified family partner may provide in a manner that distinguishes
21 other services the provision of which requires licensure under
22 another provision of law.

23 SECTION 2. Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended
24 by adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

1 (c-2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the executive
2 commissioner, in establishing standards under Subsection (c), may
3 include the provision of peer support services by a certified
4 family partner in the scope of services provided under the medical
5 assistance program to a child who is eligible for assistance, is not
6 younger than three years old and not older than 17 years old, and
7 has a serious emotional disturbance. In this subsection,
8 "certified family partner" means a person certified as a family
9 partner under rules adopted under Section 531.09992, Government
10 Code.

11 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
13 Services Commission shall adopt rules as required by Section
14 531.09992, Government Code, as added by this Act.

15 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
16 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
17 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
18 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
19 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
20 waiver or authorization is granted.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.