

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 1693
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2017; March 22, 2017, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human Services;
 1-4 May 1, 2017, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 1, 2017,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1693 By: Uresti

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a study of seniors with a visual impairment by the Aging
 1-22 Texas Well Advisory Committee.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means
 1-25 the Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee.

1-26 (b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
 1-27 Services Commission shall direct the advisory committee to assist
 1-28 the commission to:

1-29 (1) determine the appropriate level of independent
 1-30 living services for the growing number of seniors in the state with
 1-31 visual impairment; and

1-32 (2) make recommendations on the provision of services
 1-33 to seniors described by Subdivision (1).

1-34 (c) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any
 1-35 other law, in implementing its duties under this Act, the advisory
 1-36 committee may meet by telephone conference call, videoconference,
 1-37 or other similar telecommunication method. A meeting held by
 1-38 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
 1-39 telecommunication method is subject to the requirements of Sections
 1-40 551.125(c), (d), (e), and (f), Government Code.

1-41 (d) The advisory committee shall conduct a study to
 1-42 determine the projected growth and geographic distribution of
 1-43 seniors with a visual impairment in the next 5 to 10 years and
 1-44 methods for improving and expanding services, including
 1-45 independent living services, to those seniors. The study must:

1-46 (1) identify the barriers to expanding health care
 1-47 services to seniors with a visual impairment;

1-48 (2) include methods for expanding coordination
 1-49 efforts with and involvement by public and private entities;

1-50 (3) recommend a training curriculum for state agency
 1-51 personnel who provide direct intervention and independent living
 1-52 services to seniors with a visual impairment;

1-53 (4) identify and recommend a strategy to increase the
 1-54 number of state agency personnel who provide direct intervention
 1-55 and independent living services to seniors with a visual
 1-56 impairment; and

1-57 (5) determine potential public and private
 1-58 collaborators that provide services to seniors with a visual
 1-59 impairment, including:

1-60 (A) assessing the current level of

2-1 collaboration;
2-2 (B) identifying the barriers preventing a
2-3 greater level of collaboration than the current level of
2-4 collaboration;
2-5 (C) identifying the methods, additional
2-6 incentives, and additional benefits this state may offer to
2-7 increase collaboration, coordination, and partnerships;
2-8 (D) determining the role of public and private
2-9 entities that provide services to persons with a visual impairment
2-10 who are not blind; and
2-11 (E) establishing methods for incentivizing
2-12 private entities to provide services to seniors with a visual
2-13 impairment.
2-14 (e) The advisory committee shall develop, in collaboration
2-15 with private entities and other organizations that assist
2-16 individuals with a visual impairment, methods to publicize the
2-17 services available to seniors with a visual impairment. The Health
2-18 and Human Services Commission may solicit and accept funding for
2-19 and contract with a private entity for implementing an advisory
2-20 committee recommendation under this subsection.
2-21 (f) The recommendations required by Subsection (b) of this
2-22 section must be in the form of a new initiative, an immediate
2-23 proposed regulatory change by a state agency, a proposed statutory
2-24 amendment, or a suggested funding level.
2-25 (g) The advisory committee shall develop and submit a
2-26 written report on the study, publicity methods, and recommendations
2-27 developed by the advisory committee to the governor, the lieutenant
2-28 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each
2-29 member of the legislature not later than November 1, 2018.
2-30 (h) This Act expires June 1, 2019.
2-31 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-32 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-33 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-34 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-35 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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