

By: Parker

H.B. No. 822

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to addressing adverse childhood experiences and developing a strategic plan to address those experiences.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0222 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0222. COORDINATION TO ADDRESS ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES; STRATEGIC PLAN. (a) In this section, "adverse childhood experience" includes:

(1) abuse as defined by Section 261.001, Family Code;

(2) neglect as defined by Section 261.001, Family Code;

(3) family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code;

(4) intimate partner violence;

(5) parental separation or divorce; and

(6) substance use disorder, mental illness, or incarceration of a member of a child's household.

(b) In order to reduce exposure of children in this state to adverse childhood experiences and to address the social, health, and economic impacts of those experiences, the commission, in collaboration with the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Department of State Health Services, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and an

1 institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003,
2 Education Code, with expertise in addressing adverse childhood
3 experiences through a public health framework shall:

4 (1) analyze data related to the causes and effects of
5 adverse childhood experiences, including data from the Behavioral
6 Risk Factor Surveillance System established by the Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Public Health
8 Service;

9 (2) evaluate prevention needs and gaps in services and
10 support regarding awareness of, screening for, and treatment of
11 adverse childhood experiences;

12 (3) identify methods to incorporate best practices for
13 preventing and treating adverse childhood experiences into
14 existing services and support programs offered for children and
15 families; and

16 (4) develop and implement a five-year strategic plan
17 to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences.

18 (c) In developing the five-year strategic plan under
19 Subsection (b)(4), the commission may collaborate with
20 representatives of:

21 (1) state and local agencies and nonprofit
22 organizations that work directly with children and families;

23 (2) child welfare services providers;

24 (3) early childhood education programs;

25 (4) public schools;

26 (5) medical and mental health services providers;

27 (6) social services providers;

1 (7) the law enforcement and criminal justice
2 community;

3 (8) faith-based organizations; and

4 (9) the business community.

5 (d) The strategic plan must incorporate a public health
6 approach that promotes collaboration between agencies and
7 community-based providers. The strategic plan may include
8 strategies to:

9 (1) train and educate professionals to assess, treat,
10 and prevent adverse childhood experiences;

11 (2) provide trauma-informed practices;

12 (3) provide high quality child care;

13 (4) provide support to parents to develop social and
14 economic independence;

15 (5) develop voluntary, evidence-based home visiting
16 programs specifically developed to meet the needs of women who are
17 pregnant and families with an infant to strengthen parenting skills
18 and the child's social and emotional development;

19 (6) develop parental support programs for teen parents
20 and young mothers;

21 (7) develop parental education training and
22 counseling programs;

23 (8) identify best practices for child protective
24 services;

25 (9) treat mental illness and substance use disorder;
26 and

27 (10) prevent intimate partner and family violence.

1 (e) The commission shall publish the five-year strategic
2 plan required by Subsection (b) on the commission's Internet
3 website.

4 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2020, the Health and
5 Human Services Commission shall:

6 (1) develop the five-year strategic plan required by
7 Section 531.0222(b)(4), Government Code, as added by this Act; and

8 (2) submit a report to the Senate Health and Human
9 Services Committee, the House Public Health Committee, and the
10 House Human Services Committee regarding the commission's
11 strategies for preventing and treating adverse childhood
12 experiences and any plan to incorporate those strategies into
13 existing services and support programs for children and families.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.