

By: Bailes

H.B. No. 3873

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas Alternatives to Abortion Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 50 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50. ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION PROGRAM

Sec. 50.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Abortion" has the meaning assigned by Section 245.002.

(2) "Program" means the Texas Alternatives to Abortion Program established under this chapter.

Sec. 50.0002. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The commission shall establish the Texas Alternatives to Abortion Program to enhance and increase resources that promote childbirth for women facing unplanned pregnancies.

(b) The commission shall establish a statewide network of service providers, including pregnancy support centers, adoption assistance providers, and maternity homes, to provide the services described by Section 50.0003 under the program. The commission may contract with the service providers to provide the services in accordance with this chapter.

Sec. 50.0003. SERVICES. (a) Using the statewide network of service providers established under Section 50.0002, the commission shall ensure that program services are available

1 throughout this state.

2 (b) Services provided under the program include:

3 (1) counseling and mentoring;

4 (2) care coordination for prenatal services,
5 including connecting program participants to health programs;

6 (3) educational materials and information about
7 pregnancy and parenting;

8 (4) referrals to governmental and social service
9 programs, including child care, transportation, housing, and state
10 and federal benefit programs;

11 (5) classes on life skills, personal finance,
12 parenthood, stress management, job training, job placement, and
13 methods for obtaining high school equivalency certificates;

14 (6) provision of supplies for infant care and
15 pregnancy, including car seats, cribs, maternity clothes, infant
16 diapers, and formula; and

17 (7) support groups in maternity homes.

18 (c) The commission or service providers may not provide
19 family planning services under the program.

20 Sec. 50.0004. ELIGIBILITY. The program is available to a
21 resident of this state who is:

22 (1) a pregnant woman;

23 (2) the biological father of an unborn child;

24 (3) the biological parent of a child who is 24 months
25 of age or younger;

26 (4) an adoptive parent of a child who is 24 months of
27 age or younger;

1 (5) a prospective adoptive parent of an unborn child;

2 (6) a former program participant who has experienced
3 the loss of a child; and

4 (7) a parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor who
5 is a program client.

6 Sec. 50.0005. PROVISION OF SERVICES. The commission and
7 service providers shall provide services under the program based on
8 the needs of the program participants.

9 Sec. 50.0006. FUNDING. (a) The commission shall, to the
10 greatest extent possible, seek federal, governmental, and private
11 funding to supplement and match funding provided to the program.

12 (b) The commission or a service provider may not:

13 (1) use funding provided to the program to perform,
14 induce, assist, or refer an abortion; or

15 (2) grant program funds to an abortion provider or an
16 affiliate of an abortion provider.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.