

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to developing a strategic plan to ensure that the provision of prevention and early intervention services complies with federal law.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 40.079 to read as follows:

Sec. 40.079. STRATEGIC PLAN TO IMPLEMENT FEDERAL LAW REGARDING FOSTER CARE PREVENTION SERVICES. (a) The department shall develop a strategic plan for the implementation of foster care prevention services that meet the requirements of Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L. No. 115-123.

(b) The strategic plan required under this section must:

(1) identify a network of services providers to provide mental health, substance use, and in-home parenting support services for:

(A) children at risk of entering foster care;

(B) the parents and caregivers of children identified under Paragraph (A); and

(C) pregnant or parenting youth in foster care;

(2) identify methods to:

(A) maximize resources from the federal government under Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L. No. 115-123;

(B) apply for other available federal and private

1 funds;

2 (C) streamline and reduce duplication of effort  
3 by each state agency involved in providing services described by  
4 Subdivision (1); and

5 (D) streamline the procedures for determining  
6 eligibility for services described by Subdivision (1);

7 (3) include a method to:

8 (A) notify the Senate Health and Human Services  
9 Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Committee on  
10 Human Services, the House Committee on Public Health, and the House  
11 Appropriations Committee of federal and private funding  
12 opportunities; and

13 (B) respond to the opportunities described by  
14 Paragraph (A); and

15 (4) identify opportunities to coordinate with  
16 independent researchers to assist community programs in evaluating  
17 and developing trauma-informed services and promising, supported,  
18 or well-supported services and strategies under Title VII, Div. E,  
19 Pub. L. No. 115-123.

20 (c) In identifying the network of providers described by  
21 Subsection (b)(1), the department shall consult with the Health and  
22 Human Services Commission, the Department of State Health Services,  
23 and community stakeholders.

24 (d) In developing the procedure described by Subsection  
25 (b)(2), the department shall consult with the Health and Human  
26 Services Commission and the Department of State Health Services.

27 (e) This section expires March 1, 2021.

1           SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2020, the Department  
2 of Family and Protective Services shall make the plan required by  
3 Section 40.079, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act,  
4 available to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, the  
5 Senate Finance Committee, the House Committee on Human Services,  
6 the House Committee on Public Health, and the House Appropriations  
7 Committee.

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