

By: West

S.B. No. 355

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to developing a strategic plan to ensure 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 A, Chapter 265, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 265.0051 to read as follows:

Sec. 265.0051. STRATEGIC PLAN REGARDING FEDERAL FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT. (a) The department shall develop a strategic plan to ensure that the provision of prevention and early intervention services meets the requirements of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L. No. 115-123).

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

(1) identify for federal approval a network of prevention and early intervention 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

1 government under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act  
2 (Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L. No. 115-123);

3 (B) apply for other available federal and private  
4 funds;

5 (C) streamline and reduce duplication of effort  
6 by each state agency involved in providing prevention and early  
7 intervention services; and

8 (D) streamline the procedures for determining  
9 eligibility for prevention and early intervention services;

10 (3) include a method to:

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

16 (B) respond to the opportunities described by  
17 Paragraph (A); and

18 (4) identify opportunities to coordinate with  
19 independent researchers to assist community programs in evaluating  
20 and developing trauma-informed services and promising, supported,  
21 or well-supported services and strategies under the federal Family  
22 First Prevention Services Act (Title VII, Div. E, Pub. L.  
23 No. 115-123).

24 (c) In developing the network of providers described by  
25 Subsection (b)(1), the department shall consult with the Health and  
26 Human Services Commission, the Department of State Health Services,  
27 and community stakeholders.

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

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

5        SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2020, the Department  
6 of Family and Protective Services shall make the plan required by  
7 Section 265.0051, Family Code, as added by this Act, available to  
8 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, the Senate Finance  
9 Committee, the House Committee on Human Services, the House  
10 Committee on Public Health, and the House Appropriations Committee.

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