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S.B. No. 429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a comprehensive plan for increasing and improving the workforce in this state to serve persons with mental health and substance use issues.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02253 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02253. COMPREHENSIVE WORKFORCE PLAN FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE. (a) The statewide behavioral health coordinating council, under the direction of the commission, shall develop and the commission shall implement a comprehensive plan to increase and improve the workforce in this state to serve persons with mental health and substance use issues. In developing the plan, the council shall analyze and consider available studies, reports, and recommendations regarding that segment of the workforce in this state or elsewhere.

(b) The plan must include:

(1) a strategy and timeline for implementing the plan, including short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals;

(2) a system for monitoring the implementation of the plan; and

(3) a method for evaluating the outcomes of the plan.

SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2020, the statewide behavioral health coordinating council shall develop and the Health

1 and Human Services Commission shall begin implementing the plan  
2 required under Section 531.02253, Government Code, as added by this  
3 Act.

4         SECTION 3. The statewide behavioral health coordinating  
5 council and the Health and Human Services Commission are required  
6 to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature  
7 appropriates money to the commission specifically for that purpose.  
8 If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
9 purpose, the council and the commission may, but are not required  
10 to, implement the provision using other appropriations made to the  
11 commission that are available for that purpose.

12         SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.