

By: Kolkhorst, et al.

S.B. No. 633

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an initiative to increase the capacity of local mental
3 health authorities to provide access to mental health services in
4 certain counties.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 531.0221 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.0221. INITIATIVE TO INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH
9 SERVICES CAPACITY IN RURAL AREAS. (a) In this section, "local
10 mental health authority group" means a group of local mental health
11 authorities established under Subsection (b)(2).

12 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the commission, using
13 existing resources, shall:

14 (1) identify each local mental health authority that
15 is located in a county with a population of 250,000 or less or that
16 the commission determines provides services predominantly in a
17 county with a population of 250,000 or less;

18 (2) in a manner that the commission determines will
19 best achieve the reductions described by Subsection (d), assign the
20 authorities identified under Subdivision (1) to regional groups of
21 at least two authorities; and

22 (3) notify each authority identified under
23 Subdivision (1):

24 (A) that the commission has identified the

1 authority under that subdivision; and

2 (B) which local mental health authority group the
3 commission assigned the authority to under Subdivision (2).

4 (c) The commission, using existing resources, shall develop
5 a mental health services development plan for each local mental
6 health authority group that will increase the capacity of the
7 authorities in the group to provide access to needed services.

8 (d) In developing a plan under Subsection (c), the
9 commission shall focus on reducing:

10 (1) the cost to local governments of providing
11 services to persons experiencing a mental health crisis;

12 (2) the transportation of persons served by an
13 authority in the local mental health authority group to mental
14 health facilities;

15 (3) the incarceration of persons with mental illness
16 in county jails that are located in an area served by an authority
17 in the local mental health authority group; and

18 (4) the number of hospital emergency room visits by
19 persons with mental illness at hospitals located in an area served
20 by an authority in the local mental health authority group.

21 (e) In developing a plan under Subsection (c):

22 (1) the commission shall assess the capacity of the
23 authorities in the local mental health authority group to provide
24 access to needed services; and

25 (2) the commission and the local mental health
26 authority group shall evaluate:

27 (A) whether and to what degree increasing the

1 capacity of the authorities in the local mental health authority
2 group to provide access to needed services would offset the cost to
3 state or local governmental entities of:

4 (i) the transportation of persons for
5 mental health services to facilities that are not local providers;

6 (ii) admissions to and inpatient
7 hospitalizations at state hospitals or other treatment facilities;

8 (iii) the provision of services by hospital
9 emergency rooms to persons with mental illness who are served by or
10 reside in an area served by an authority in the local mental health
11 authority group; and

12 (iv) the incarceration in county jails of
13 persons with mental illness who are served by or reside in an area
14 served by an authority in the local mental health authority group;

15 (B) whether available state funds or grant
16 funding sources could be used to fund the plan; and

17 (C) what measures would be necessary to ensure
18 that the plan aligns with the statewide behavioral health strategic
19 plan and the comprehensive inpatient mental health plan.

20 (f) In each mental health services development plan
21 produced under this section, the commission, in collaboration with
22 the local mental health authority group, shall determine a method
23 of increasing the capacity of the authorities in the local mental
24 health authority group to provide access to needed services.

25 (g) The commission shall compile and evaluate each mental
26 health services development plan produced under this section and
27 determine:

1 (1) the cost-effectiveness of each plan; and

2 (2) how each plan would improve the delivery of mental
3 health treatment and care to residents in the service areas of the
4 authorities in the local mental health authority group.

5 (h) Not later than December 1, 2020, the commission, using
6 existing resources, shall produce and publish on its Internet
7 website a report containing:

8 (1) the commission's evaluation of each plan under
9 Subsection (g);

10 (2) each mental health services development plan
11 evaluated by the commission under Subsection (g); and

12 (3) a comprehensive statewide analysis of mental
13 health services in counties with a population of 250,000 or less,
14 including recommendations to the legislature for implementing the
15 plans developed under this section.

16 (i) The commission and the authorities in each local mental
17 health authority group may implement a mental health services
18 development plan evaluated by the commission under this section if
19 the commission and the local mental health authority group to which
20 the plan applies identify a method of funding that implementation.

21 (j) This section expires September 1, 2021.

22 SECTION 2. The Health and Human Services Commission is
23 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the
24 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If
25 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
26 purpose, the Health and Human Services Commission may, but is not
27 required to, implement a provision of this Act using other

1 appropriations available for that purpose.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.