

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 1886  
By: Noble  
Human Services  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The state and federal governments operate a number of safety net programs aimed at helping eligible individuals in need of financial assistance, including children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities, to pay for basic needs such as food and quality health care. These programs are essential to program recipients' livelihoods and to help Texans who find themselves in difficult situations get back on their feet. As such, it is incumbent on the legislature, on behalf of all Texans, to ensure that the dollars appropriated for these programs are used as wisely as possible to ensure that the programs are carried out efficiently but also in a manner to effectively help recipients achieve self-sufficiency. C.S.H.B. 1886 seeks to require the Legislative Budget Board to study the safety net programs available in Texas to determine how best to streamline program eligibility requirements, resources, and services to improve outcomes and reduce costs to taxpayers.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 1886 requires the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), in coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and other applicable state agencies, to conduct a study on state and federal safety net programs available in Texas during the five-year period preceding the bill's effective date for the purpose of streamlining program eligibility requirements, resources, and benefits to improve outcomes for program recipients and reduce costs to taxpayers. The safety net programs to be studied include TANF, SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, CHIP, the child care services program operated by the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

C.S.H.B. 1886 prescribes the examination and analyses required to be included in the study and requires the LBB to collect any information necessary for conducting the study from each state agency that administers or operates a safety net program. Each agency must submit the information requested by the LBB to the LBB within a reasonable time as prescribed by the LBB. The bill requires the LBB, not later than September 1, 2022, to submit a report based on its findings and recommendations to the legislature and post the report on its website. The LBB must conduct the study and prepare the report using existing resources. The bill's provisions expire January 1, 2023.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2021.

## **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE**

While C.S.H.B. 1886 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following summarizes the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

The substitute replaces references to welfare programs with references to safety net programs.

The substitute includes a requirement for the LBB to coordinate with HHSC and other applicable state agencies in conducting the study.

The substitute revises the examination components of the study as follows:

- omits an examination of information on the geographic region of residence for program beneficiaries;
- extends the applicability of the examination of certain demographic and socioeconomic information on program beneficiaries to the parents or guardians of program recipients who are dependents and specifies that this information is aggregate; and
- specifies that the required information on the number of dependents for program beneficiaries is the average number of dependents in recipient households under each program.

The substitute includes a requirement that the LBB conduct the study and prepare the report using existing resources and specifies that the time frame for agencies to submit the information requested by the LBB is as prescribed by the LBB.

The substitute includes a January 1, 2023, expiration date for the bill's provisions.