

By: Parker, Sanford, Frank

H.B. No. 1516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to efficiency audits of the Temporary Assistance for Needy
3 Families program and the state temporary assistance and support
4 services program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 531.005522 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.005522. EFFICIENCY AUDIT. (a) For purposes of
9 this section, "efficiency audit" means an investigation of the
10 implementation and administration of the federal Temporary
11 Assistance for Needy Families program operated under Chapter 31,
12 Human Resources Code, and the state temporary assistance and
13 support services program operated under Chapter 34, Human Resources
14 Code, to examine fiscal management, efficiency of the use of
15 resources, and the effectiveness of state efforts in achieving the
16 goals of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program
17 described under 42 U.S.C. Section 601(a).

18 (b) In 2022 and every sixth year after that year, an
19 external auditor selected under Subsection (e) shall conduct an
20 efficiency audit.

21 (c) The commission shall pay the costs associated with an
22 efficiency audit required under this section using existing
23 resources.

24 (d) The state auditor shall ensure that the external auditor

1 conducts the efficiency audit in accordance with the requirements
2 of this section.

3 (e) Not later than March 1 of the year in which an efficiency
4 audit is required under this section, the state auditor shall
5 select an external auditor to conduct the efficiency audit.

6 (f) The external auditor shall be independent and not
7 subject to direction from:

8 (1) the commission; or

9 (2) any other state agency subject to evaluation by
10 the auditor for purposes of this section or that receives or spends
11 money under the programs described by Subsection (a).

12 (g) The external auditor shall complete the audit not later
13 than the 90th day after the date the auditor is selected.

14 (h) The Legislative Budget Board shall establish the scope
15 of the efficiency audit and determine the areas of investigation
16 for the audit, including:

17 (1) reviewing the resources dedicated to a program
18 described by Subsection (a) to determine whether those resources:

19 (A) are being used effectively and efficiently to
20 achieve desired outcomes for individuals receiving benefits under a
21 program; and

22 (B) are not being used for purposes other than
23 the intended goals of the applicable program;

24 (2) identifying cost savings or reallocations of
25 resources; and

26 (3) identifying opportunities for improving services
27 through consolidation of essential functions, outsourcing, and

1 elimination of duplicative efforts.

2 (i) Not later than November 1 of the year an efficiency
3 audit is conducted, the external auditor shall prepare and submit a
4 report of the audit and recommendations for efficiency improvements
5 to the governor, the Legislative Budget Board, the state auditor,
6 the executive commissioner, and the chairs of the House Human
7 Services Committee and the Senate Health and Human Services
8 Committee. The executive commissioner and the state auditor shall
9 publish the report, recommendations, and full audit on the
10 commission's and the state auditor's Internet websites.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.