

By: Howard, Rose, et al.

H.B. No. 2490

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to referrals to and consent to services under certain programs designed to serve pregnant women and families.

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

SECTION 1. Section 531.982, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) A minor who is otherwise eligible for a home visiting program may consent to enrollment in and to receive services from a home visiting program. For purposes of this subsection, "minor" means an individual who is younger than 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. Section 265.101, Family Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivisions (1-a) and (1-b) to read as follows:

(1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(1-a) "Competitive grant program" means the nurse-family partnership competitive grant program established under this subchapter.

(1-b) "Health and human services agencies" has the meaning assigned by Section 531.001, Government Code.

SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 265, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 265.1025 to read as follows:

Sec. 265.1025. COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. The department shall coordinate with the commission

1 to promote the referral to a partnership program of pregnant women  
2 receiving services through a public benefits program administered  
3 by the commission or a health and human services agency. The  
4 coordination may include encouraging and supporting agreements  
5 between local organizations providing services to pregnant women.

6 SECTION 4. Section 265.154(b), Family Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (b) A report submitted under this section must include:

9 (1) a description of the parenting education programs  
10 implemented and of the models associated with the programs;

11 (2) information on the families served by the  
12 programs, including the number of families served and their  
13 demographic information;

14 (3) the goals and achieved outcomes of the programs;

15 (4) information on the cost for each family served,  
16 including any available third-party return-on-investment analysis;  
17 ~~and~~

18 (5) information explaining the percentage of money  
19 spent on evidence-based programs and on promising practice  
20 programs; and

21 (6) the sources from which pregnant women were  
22 referred in the preceding two-year period to a nurse-family  
23 partnership program under Subchapter C.

24 SECTION 5. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
25 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
26 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
27 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or

1 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
2 waiver or authorization is granted.

3 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.