By: Neave

H.B. No. 3444

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 AN ACT 2 relating to a self-employment assistance program for unemployed 3 individuals. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: 4 SECTION 1. Section 207.021(a), Labor Code, is amended to 5 read as follows: 6 7 Except as provided by Chapters [Chapter] 215 and 216, an (a) unemployed individual is eligible to receive benefits for a benefit 8 period if the individual: 9 (1) has registered for work at an employment office 10 11 and has continued to report to the employment office as required by 12 rules adopted by the commission; 13 (2) has made a claim for benefits under Section 208.001; 14 (3) is able to work; 15 (4) is available for work; 16 17 is actively seeking work in accordance with rules (5) adopted by the commission; 18 (6) for the individual's base period, has benefit wage 19 20 credits: 21 (A) in at least two calendar quarters; and 22 (B) in an amount not less than 37 times the individual's benefit amount; 23 after the beginning date of the individual's most 24 (7)

H.B. No. 3444

а

1 recent prior benefit year, if applicable, earned wages in an amount equal to not less than six times the individual's benefit amount; 2

3 (8) has been totally or partially unemployed for a waiting period of at least seven consecutive days; and 4

5 participates in reemployment services, such as a (9) job search assistance service, if the individual has been 6 determined, according to a profiling system established by the 7 8 commission, to be likely to exhaust eligibility for regular benefits and to need those services to obtain new employment, 9 10 unless:

the individual has completed participation 11 (A) 12 in such a service; or

there is reasonable cause, as determined by 13 (B) 14 the commission, for the individual's failure to participate in 15 those services.

16 SECTION 2. Subtitle A, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by 17 adding Chapter 216 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 216. SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 18 Sec. 216.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter: 19 (1) "Self-employment activity" 20 means commission-approved activity that furthers an individual's goal to 21 22 start a business. (2) "Self-employment assistance allowance" means an 23

24 unemployment compensation benefit payable to an individual engaged in a self-employment activity. 25

26 Sec. 216.002. SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish and administer a self-employment 27

H.B. No. 3444

4   individual participating in the self-employment assistance     5   may receive a self-employment assistance allowance in liew     6   in an amount equal to the individual's benefit amount.     7   (c) Any self-employment assistance allowance payment     8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purpted     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as proved     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commiss     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     14   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to resistance program.     15   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employ     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employ     20   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	
3   (b) Subject to the requirements of this chapt     4   individual participating in the self-employment assistance     5   may receive a self-employment assistance allowance in liew     6   in an amount equal to the individual's benefit amount.     7   (c) Any self-employment assistance allowance payment     8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purp     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as prov     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commiss     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     14   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to resistance program.     15   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to assistance program.     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is of to participate in the self-employment assistance program     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	ligible
4   individual participating in the self-employment assistance     5   may receive a self-employment assistance allowance in lieu     6   in an amount equal to the individual's benefit amount.     7   (c) Any self-employment assistance allowance paymen     8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purp     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as prov     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commis     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     14   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to resistance allowance.     15   (c) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance program.     16   activity requirements for an individual to a self-employment assistance program.     17   sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is eligible to a self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is eligible to a self-employment assistance program.     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program.  <	
5   may receive a self-employment assistance allowance in lies     6   in an amount equal to the individual's benefit amount.     7   (c) Any self-employment assistance allowance payment     8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purpt     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as provide     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commiss     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-emptore     16   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to resistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to self-employment assistance allowance.     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emptore     20   assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicible in the self-employment assistance program     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	cer, an
6   in an amount equal to the individual's benefit amount.     7   (c) Any self-employment assistance allowance payment     8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purphy     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as provided     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commission     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual is eligibility criteria for an individual to participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to self-employment assistance allowance.     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employment assistance program.     20   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit to program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit to program.     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program.     23   individual:	program
7   (c) Any self-employment assistance allowance payment     8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purp     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as prov     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commiss     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to self-employment assistance allowance.     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employ assistance program.     20   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit and the self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit.     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	ı of and
8   to an individual under this chapter are included for purp     9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as prov     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commis     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an inc     14   participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-emp     16   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to re     17   self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emp     20   assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is e     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	
9   determining whether the individual has received the maximum     10   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as provided to be a server of the section 207.005.     12   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commission     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual in the self-employment assistance program.     14   participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to self-employment assistance allowance.     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored assistance program.     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	nts made
0   of benefits for which the individual is eligible as provided to section 207.005.     11   Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commission rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual to restant to restant to the commission shall establish weekly self-emplating in the self-employment assistance allowance.     16   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-emplating in the self and individual to qualify to restant to restant to the commission shall adopt rules as necessary to self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emplayed assistance program.     20   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit to the self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit.     23   individual:	oses of
Section 207.005.     12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commission     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an individual to participating in the self-employment assistance program.     14   participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance activity requirements for an individual to qualify to restrict the self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored to the self-employment assistance program.     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	n amount
12   Sec. 216.003. COMMISSION DUTIES. (a) The commiss     13   rule shall establish eligibility criteria for an ind     14   participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance allowance.     16   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to resistance program.     17   self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employ assistance program.     20   sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored assistance program.     23   individual:	ided by
13   rule   shall   establish   eligibility   criteria   for   an   index     14   participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b)   The commission shall establish weekly self-employment     16   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to res     17   self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c)   The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employ     20   assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicit to the self-employment assistance program     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	
14   participating in the self-employment assistance program.     15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-employment assistance and individual to qualify to restrict a self-employment assistance allowance.     16   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employment assistance program.     20   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored to the self-employment assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored to the self-employment assistance program.     23   individual:	sion by
15   (b) The commission shall establish weekly self-emp     16   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to re     17   self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emp     20   assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explored in the self-employment assistance program     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	lividual
16   activity requirements for an individual to qualify to rest     17   self-employment assistance allowance.     18   (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to     19   with any federal requirement applicable to a self-employment     20   assistance program.     21   Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is explicitly in the self-employment assistance program     22   to participate in the self-employment assistance program     23   individual:	
17 <u>self-employment assistance allowance.</u> (c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to 19 with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emp 20 <u>assistance program.</u> 21 <u>Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is e</u> 22 <u>to participate in the self-employment assistance program</u> 23 <u>individual:</u>	loyment
(c) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emp assistance program. Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is e to participate in the self-employment assistance program individual:	ceive a
19 with any federal requirement applicable to a self-emp 20 assistance program. 21 Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is e 22 to participate in the self-employment assistance program 23 individual:	
20 <u>assistance program.</u> 21 <u>Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is e</u> 22 <u>to participate in the self-employment assistance program</u> 23 <u>individual:</u>	comply
21 <u>Sec. 216.004. ELIGIBILITY. (a) An individual is e</u> 22 <u>to participate in the self-employment assistance program</u> 23 <u>individual:</u>	loyment
22 <u>to participate in the self-employment assistance program</u> 23 <u>individual:</u>	
23 <u>individual:</u>	ligible
	if the
24 (1) is likely to exhaust the individual's	
	regular
25 benefits; and	
26 (2) meets any eligibility criteria establishe	l by the
27 <u>commission.</u>	

H.B. No. 3444

1 (b) An individual is eligible to receive a self-employment assistance allowance for a week in which the individual is engaged 2 in a self-employment activity and meets all the eligibility 3 4 requirements under Chapter 207 to receive benefits other than the requirements of Sections 207.021(a)(4) and (5). 5 6 Sec. 216.005. LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION. At any time, the aggregate number of individuals receiving self-employment 7 assistance allowances may not exceed five percent of the number of 8 individuals receiving regular benefits under this subtitle. 9 SECTION 3. Not later than June 30, 2022, the Texas Workforce 10 Commission shall adopt the rules required by Chapter 216, Labor 11 Code, as added by this Act. 12

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

13