

By: Paxton

S.B. No. 1528

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prevention and early intervention services by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose for this Act is to improve the delivery of prevention and early intervention services for certain children while maximizing the efficient use of taxpayer dollars through a community-based approach.

SECTION 2. Section 265.007, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 265.007. IMPROVING PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES. (a) In this section, "adverse childhood experience" means a potentially traumatic event that occurs in the life of a person younger than 18 years of age, including:

(1) abuse as defined by Section 261.001, Family Code;

(2) family violence as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code;

(3) neglect as defined by Section 261.001, Family Code;

(4) death of a parent; and

(5) substance use disorder, mental illness, or incarceration of a member of a child's household.

(a-1) To improve the effectiveness and delivery of prevention and early intervention services, the department shall:

1           (1) identify geographic areas that have a high need  
2 for prevention and early intervention services but do not have  
3 prevention and early intervention services available in the area or  
4 have only unevaluated prevention and early intervention services  
5 available in the area; [~~and~~]

6           (2) develop a request for information to assist the  
7 department in the development of the strategic plan described in  
8 Section 265.005 to improve prevention and early intervention  
9 services;

10          (3) send the request for information developed under  
11 Subdivision (2) to a diverse set of stakeholders and providers  
12 throughout the state, including:

13                   (A) state and local agencies and nonprofit  
14 organizations that work directly with children and families;

15                   (B) child welfare service providers;

16                   (C) early childhood education programs;

17                   (D) public schools;

18                   (E) medical and mental health service providers;

19                   (F) family support and social services  
20 providers;

21                   (G) the law enforcement, judicial, and criminal  
22 justice communities;

23                   (H) faith-based organizations;

24                   (I) the intellectual or developmental disability  
25 community;

26                   (J) families and children impacted by child  
27 abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences;

1                   (K) the business and philanthropic communities;

2 and

3                   (L) single source continuum contractors; and

4                   (4) in collaboration with the Health and Human  
5 Services Commission, the Department of State Health Services, the  
6 Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the  
7 Office of the Attorney General:

8                   (A) develop an inventory of programs and services  
9 that are funded by the state that contribute to the prevention of  
10 child abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood experiences;

11                   (B) develop an inventory of programs and services  
12 that are provided by other entities, including those listed in  
13 Section 265.007(a-1)(3), Family Code, that contribute to the  
14 prevention of child abuse, neglect, and other adverse childhood  
15 experiences;

16                   (C) facilitate opportunities to increase  
17 collaboration for the effective expenditure of available federal  
18 and state funds and better leverage public and private partnerships  
19 to increase efficiency; and

20                   (D) develop strategies for community partners  
21 to:

22                   (i) [~~A~~] improve the early recognition of  
23 child abuse or neglect;

24                   (ii) [~~B~~] improve the reporting of child  
25 abuse and neglect; [~~and~~]

26                   (iii) [~~C~~] reduce child fatalities;

27                   (iv) improve the ability of community

1 partners to distinguish situations in which a child is in imminent  
2 danger from situations in which the child and child's family would  
3 be better served by providing community-based services; and

4 (v) implement cross-sector, evidence-based  
5 practices that prevent adverse childhood experiences.

6 (b) The entities listed in Subsection (a-1)(4) shall:

7 (1) use a community awareness approach to implement  
8 the strategies and recommendations developed under this section;  
9 and

10 (2) request information and invite comment from  
11 representatives of single source continuum contractors.

12 (c) The department may not use data techniques, including  
13 predictive analytics, risk-based modeling, and other similar  
14 assessments, to develop, deliver, or implement prevention and early  
15 intervention services as it relates to adverse childhood  
16 experiences.

17 (d) The department may not use data gathered under this  
18 section to identify a specific family or individual.

19 SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2022, the Department  
20 of Family and Protective Services shall submit a report to the  
21 legislature and the governor that includes:

22 (1) a summary of community feedback, available data,  
23 best practices, and implementable changes within the entities  
24 listed in Section 265.007(a-1)(4), Family Code, as added by this  
25 Act, with regard to the progress of efforts made under Section  
26 265.007, Family Code, as amended by this Act; and

27 (2) specific short-term and long-term statutory,

1 administrative, and budget-related recommendations for reforms  
2 necessary to improve the delivery of prevention and intervention  
3 services across state agencies.

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