

House Bill 1301
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 1. Sections 2306.586(a), (b), (c), and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The purpose of a self-help center is to assist individuals and families of low income and very low income to finance, refinance, construct, improve, or maintain a safe, suitable home and otherwise improve living conditions in the colonias' designated service area or in another area the department has determined is suitable.

(b) A self-help center shall set a goal to improve the living conditions of residents in the colonias designated under Section 2306.583(b) [~~2306.583(a)(2)~~] within a two-year period after a contract is awarded under this subchapter.

(c) A self-help center may serve individuals and families of low income and very low income by:

- (1) providing assistance in obtaining loans or grants to build a home;
- (2) teaching construction skills necessary to repair or build a home;
- (3) providing model home plans;
- (4) operating a program to rent or provide tools for home construction and improvement for the benefit of property owners in colonias who are building or repairing a residence or installing necessary residential infrastructure;
- (5) helping to obtain, construct, access, or improve the service and utility infrastructure designed to service residences in a colonia, including potable water, wastewater disposal, drainage, streets, and utilities;
- (6) surveying or platting residential property that an individual purchased without the benefit of a legal survey, plat, or record;
- (7) providing credit and debt counseling related to home purchase and finance;

SENATE VERSION (CS)

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- (8) applying for grants and loans to provide housing and other needed community improvements;
- (9) providing other services that the self-help center, with the approval of the department, determines are necessary to assist colonia residents in improving their [physical] living conditions, including help in:
- (A) developing professional skills;
(B) achieving financial literacy; or
(C) obtaining suitable alternative housing outside of a colonia's area;
- (10) providing assistance in obtaining loans or grants to enable an individual or a family to acquire fee simple title to property that originally was purchased under a contract for a deed, contract for sale, or other executory contract; and
- (11) providing monthly programs to educate individuals and families on their rights and responsibilities as property owners.
- (d) A self-help center may not provide grants, financing, or mortgage loan services to purchase, build, rehabilitate, or finance construction or improvements to a home or otherwise improve living conditions in a colonia if water service and suitable wastewater disposal are not available.

No equivalent provision.

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- (8) applying for grants and loans to provide housing and other needed community improvements;
- (9) providing other services that the self-help center, with the approval of the department, determines are necessary to assist colonia residents in improving their [physical] living conditions, including help in:
- (A) obtaining suitable alternative housing outside of a colonia's area; and
(B) performing the following authorized public service activities under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. Section 5301 et seq.):
(i) securing employment;
(ii) establishing or expanding a small business;
(iii) developing professional skills; or
(iv) managing personal finances and achieving financial literacy;
- (10) providing assistance in obtaining loans or grants to enable an individual or a family to acquire fee simple title to property that originally was purchased under a contract for a deed, contract for sale, or other executory contract; and
- (11) providing monthly programs to educate individuals and families on their rights and responsibilities as property owners.
- (d) A self-help center may not provide grants, financing, or mortgage loan services to purchase, build, rehabilitate, or finance construction or improvements to a home or otherwise improve living conditions in a colonia if water service and suitable wastewater disposal are not available.

SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "colonia" has the meaning assigned by Section 2306.581, Government Code.

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- (b) A joint interim committee is established to study colonias and colonia initiatives in this state.
- (c) The joint interim committee is composed of the members of the standing committees of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over colonias and colonia issues. The committee members shall select a presiding officer from among the membership.
- (d) In conducting the study under this section, the joint interim committee shall:
- (1) determine the best methods for updating and maintaining colonia identification systems and for identifying and classifying colonias in which the highest public health risks exist;
 - (2) consider whether colonias should be defined uniformly across all relevant state agencies and whether that definition should include essential metrics such as:
 - (A) economic mobility levels;
 - (B) poverty levels;
 - (C) mortality rates;
 - (D) health professional shortage area scores; and
 - (E) the average level of education attained by colonia residents;
 - (3) to address the enduring lack of services and infrastructure in colonias, assess best practices and funding needs for surveying the services and infrastructure available in, and demographics of, each colonia;
 - (4) assess the status of state agency tracking and reporting of state-funded colonia projects and whether improvements to the tracking or reporting mechanisms are necessary;
 - (5) determine and assess any non-infrastructure needs within colonias and options for this state to address those needs; and
 - (6) assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on colonias

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and whether additional state services are necessary to address those impacts.

(e) The joint interim committee has all other powers and duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on administration.

(f) Not later than September 1, 2022, the joint interim committee shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature a written report that includes the findings of the committee under this section, including any legislative recommendations.

(g) The joint interim committee established under this section is abolished and this section expires November 1, 2022.

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

SECTION 3. Same as House version.