

1-1 By: Hinojosa S.B. No. 1841  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2023; March 20, 2023, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;  
1-4 April 17, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 17, 2023,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	<u>X</u>			
1-10	<u>X</u>			
1-11	<u>X</u>			
1-12	<u>X</u>			
1-13	<u>X</u>			
1-14	<u>X</u>			
1-15	<u>X</u>			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1841 By: Flores

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to family violence center services for victims of family  
1-20 violence.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 51.002, Human Resources Code, is amended  
1-23 by amending Subdivisions (1), (2), and (9) and adding Subdivisions  
1-24 (1-a), (1-b), and (8-a) to read as follows:

1-25 (1) "Dating relationship" has the meaning assigned by  
1-26 Section 71.0021(b), Family Code.

1-27 (1-a) "Dating violence" means an act, other than a  
1-28 defensive measure to protect oneself, by an individual against  
1-29 another individual with whom the actor has or has had a dating  
1-30 relationship and that is:

1-31 (A) intended to result in physical harm, bodily  
1-32 injury, assault, or sexual assault;

1-33 (B) a threat that reasonably places an individual  
1-34 in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or  
1-35 sexual assault; or

1-36 (C) intended to inflict emotional harm,  
1-37 including an act of emotional abuse.

1-38 (1-b) "Family" has the meaning assigned by Section  
1-39 71.003, Family Code.

1-40 (2) "Family violence" means:

1-41 (A) an act by a member of a family or household  
1-42 against another member of the family or household that:

1-43 (i) [~~(A)~~] is intended to result in physical  
1-44 harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat  
1-45 that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical  
1-46 harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not  
1-47 include defensive measures to protect oneself; or

1-48 (ii) [~~(B)~~] is intended to inflict emotional  
1-49 harm, including an act of emotional abuse; or

1-50 (B) dating violence.

1-51 (8-a) "Trauma-informed" in regard to a service or  
1-52 service model means that the service or service model is provided in  
1-53 a manner that recognizes and responds to the signs and symptoms of  
1-54 trauma in, and the risks of trauma to, a victim of family violence  
1-55 to better support the victim and promote the victim's choice,  
1-56 trust, dignity, connection, and healing.

1-57 (9) "Victim of family violence" means:

1-58 (A) an adult member of a family or household who  
1-59 is subjected to an act of family violence; [~~or~~]

1-60 (B) a member of the household of the adult

2-1 described by Paragraph (A), other than the member of the household  
2-2 who commits the act of family violence, including an act of  
2-3 emotional abuse; or  
2-4 (C) an individual who is subjected to an act of  
2-5 dating violence.

2-6 SECTION 2. Sections 51.004(a) and (b), Human Resources  
2-7 Code, are amended to read as follows:

2-8 (a) To be eligible for a contract under Section 51.003(a), a  
2-9 family violence shelter center must:

2-10 (1) provide temporary lodging and direct delivery of  
2-11 services for adults and their dependents;

2-12 (2) have been in actual operation offering shelter  
2-13 services 24 hours a day with a capacity for not less than five  
2-14 persons for at least one year before the date on which the contract  
2-15 is awarded;

2-16 (3) demonstrate that the center, through the services  
2-17 it provides, is addressing a need in the community consistent with  
2-18 the plan for family violence services under Section 51.0021; ~~and~~

2-19 (4) demonstrate that the center is using a voluntary  
2-20 and trauma-informed advocacy service model that respects an  
2-21 individual's needs; and

2-22 (5) submit a contract application on forms prescribed  
2-23 by the commission.

2-24 (b) To be eligible for a contract under Section 51.003(a), a  
2-25 family violence nonresidential center must:

2-26 (1) provide, as its primary purpose, direct delivery  
2-27 of services to adult victims of family violence;

2-28 (2) demonstrate a system of referring victims of  
2-29 family violence to at least one family violence shelter center or  
2-30 other safe temporary lodging;

2-31 (3) have been operating and providing comprehensive  
2-32 services, including the services described by Section  
2-33 51.005(b)(3), to victims of family violence for at least one year  
2-34 before the date on which the contract is awarded;

2-35 (4) demonstrate that the center, through the services  
2-36 it provides, is addressing a need in the community consistent with  
2-37 the plan for family violence services under Section 51.0021; ~~and~~

2-38 (5) demonstrate that the center is using a voluntary  
2-39 and trauma-informed advocacy service model that respects an  
2-40 individual's needs; and

2-41 (6) submit a contract application on forms prescribed  
2-42 by the commission.

2-43 SECTION 3. Section 51.005, Human Resources Code, is amended  
2-44 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as  
2-45 follows:

2-46 (b) The contracts shall require the persons operating a  
2-47 family violence center to:

2-48 (1) make a quarterly and an annual financial report on  
2-49 a form prescribed by the commission;

2-50 (2) cooperate with inspections the commission makes to  
2-51 ensure services standards and fiscal responsibility; and

2-52 (3) provide, as its primary purpose, voluntary and  
2-53 trauma-informed services to victims of family violence that  
2-54 include:

2-55 (A) 24-hour-a-day shelter, except that a family  
2-56 violence nonresidential center may provide access to a  
2-57 24-hour-a-day shelter;

2-58 (B) a 24-hour-a-day crisis hotline, except that a  
2-59 family violence nonresidential center may provide access to a  
2-60 24-hour-a-day crisis hotline operated by another organization  
2-61 located in the nonresidential center's service area;

2-62 (C) access to emergency medical care;

2-63 (D) crisis and intervention services, including  
2-64 ~~[safety planning,]~~ understanding and support, information,  
2-65 education, referrals, and other resource assistance;

2-66 (E) access to emergency transportation;

2-67 (F) advocacy focused on:

2-68 (i) economic and housing stability;

2-69 (ii) physical, behavioral, and mental

3-1 health;  
3-2 (iii) the needs of children who are victims  
3-3 and the children of victims; and  
3-4 (iv) [~~legal assistance in~~] the civil and  
3-5 criminal legal [~~justice~~] systems, including:  
3-6 (a) [~~(i)~~] identifying individual  
3-7 needs, legal rights, and legal options; and  
3-8 (b) [~~(ii)~~] providing support and  
3-9 accompaniment in pursuing those options;  
3-10 (G) ongoing safety planning services in  
3-11 collaboration with the self-stated priorities and needs of the  
3-12 victim of family violence [~~information about educational~~  
3-13 ~~arrangements for children~~];  
3-14 (H) community education regarding family  
3-15 violence and family violence prevention efforts [~~information about~~  
3-16 ~~training for and seeking employment~~];  
3-17 (I) counseling services [~~cooperation with~~  
3-18 ~~criminal justice officials~~]; and  
3-19 (J) peer support services led by victims of  
3-20 family violence, including activities and other efforts that  
3-21 facilitate connections and the creation of community among victims  
3-22 of family violence [~~community education,~~  
3-23 ~~(K) a referral system to existing community~~  
3-24 ~~services; and~~  
3-25 ~~(L) a volunteer recruitment and training~~  
3-26 ~~program~~].  
3-27 (b-1) The contracts shall:  
3-28 (1) specify that participation in services by a victim  
3-29 of family violence is voluntary; and  
3-30 (2) prohibit the persons operating a family violence  
3-31 center from requiring a victim of family violence to participate in  
3-32 other services as a condition of receiving shelter.  
3-33 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
3-34 a contract entered into or amended on or after the effective date of  
3-35 this Act. A contract entered into or amended before the effective  
3-36 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
3-37 contract was entered into or amended, and the former law is  
3-38 continued in effect for that purpose.  
3-39 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2024.

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