

By: Cole

H.B. No. 2724

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to equitable operations policies for certain emergency homeless shelters.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2306.0945 to read as follows:

Sec. 2306.0945. EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER EQUITABLE OPERATIONS POLICIES. (a) This section applies only to an emergency homeless shelter that receives financial assistance administered by the department, including federal funds described by Section 2306.094.

(b) The department by rule shall require each emergency homeless shelter to adopt and implement equitable operations policies designed to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness in this state have equal access to shelter and support services regardless of the individuals' race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, or other protected status.

(c) The equitable operations policies must require an emergency homeless shelter to:

(1) eliminate discriminatory practices in the admission of individuals to and the discharge of individuals from the shelter and in the provision of services;

(2) offer culturally and linguistically appropriate

1 services and accommodations;

2 (3) ensure that each individual receiving services
3 from the shelter has access to the same level of basic amenities,
4 such as clean and safe sleeping accommodations, showers, restrooms,
5 and laundry facilities;

6 (4) provide individuals receiving services from the
7 shelter with access to supportive services, such as case
8 management, employment assistance, health care, and mental health
9 and substance use treatment;

10 (5) prioritize the needs of individuals who are most
11 vulnerable, including families with children, pregnant
12 individuals, individuals with disabilities, and survivors of
13 domestic violence;

14 (6) adopt trauma-informed care practices to ensure
15 that each individual receiving services from the shelter is treated
16 with dignity and respect;

17 (7) provide staff training and professional
18 development on issues related to equity, diversity, and inclusion;

19 (8) establish and implement other holistic operations
20 policies determined by the department to maximize the opportunity
21 for stabilization of the community the shelter serves during and
22 after a public emergency; and

23 (9) collect and report data to the department in
24 accordance with department rule on the demographic characteristics
25 of shelter residents and outcomes achieved.

26 (d) The department shall develop and distribute to each
27 emergency shelter guidelines and best practices for the adoption

1 and implementation of the equitable operations policies.

2 (e) The department shall monitor emergency homeless
3 shelters to ensure compliance with this section.

4 (f) The department may not provide financial assistance to
5 an emergency shelter that fails to adopt and implement the
6 equitable operations policies required by this section.

7 (g) The department may collaborate with local emergency
8 homeless shelter regulatory authorities in carrying out this
9 section.

10 (h) The senate finance committee and the house
11 appropriations committee shall use the equitable operations
12 policies required by this section as a guide in determining the
13 costs and funding sources of those policies.

14 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
15 of this Act, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
16 shall adopt the rules required by Section 2306.0945, Government
17 Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.