

By: Ordaz

H.B. No. 5395

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Cross-Agency Employment Resource Initiative to coordinate and optimize certain employment services and resources in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle G, Title 10, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2308B to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2308B. CROSS-AGENCY EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE INITIATIVE

Sec. 2308B.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Client" means an individual who:

(A) receives services from the workforce commission;

(B) is a recipient of financial assistance under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, or supplemental nutrition assistance under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code; or

(C) receives reentry and reintegration services from the department.

(2) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(3) "Department" means the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(4) "Initiative" means the Cross-Agency Employment Resource Initiative.

(5) "Workforce commission" means the Texas Workforce

1 Commission.

2 Sec. 2308B.002. PURPOSE. The Cross-Agency Employment
3 Resource Initiative is established to coordinate and optimize
4 services, information, and other resources as necessary to:

5 (1) align services provided to clients of programs
6 administered by the workforce commission who also use programs
7 administered by the commission or the department, or both;

8 (2) provide those clients with timely and accurate
9 information necessary to meet program requirements;

10 (3) enable the agencies to maximize and leverage
11 resources, including client data and agency office space, to
12 effectively and efficiently serve clients using multiple programs
13 across the agencies; and

14 (4) share individual agency goals and performance
15 measures, specifically those attributed to gainful employment,
16 employment retention, recidivism, and other workforce development
17 goals, and enable state and local policy makers to collaboratively
18 implement or modify policy and regulations to effect those goals.

19 Sec. 2308B.003. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS. The commission,
20 department, and workforce commission shall enter into one or more
21 interagency agreements establishing policies and processes for:

22 (1) sharing relevant client data and agency
23 information; and

24 (2) sharing agency office space and other resources as
25 necessary to effectuate the purposes of the initiative.

26 Sec. 2308B.004. QUARTERLY DISCUSSIONS. The executive
27 commissioner of the commission, the chair of the Texas Board of

1 Criminal Justice, and the chair of the workforce commission shall
2 discuss the work of the initiative at least once per quarter.

3 Sec. 2308B.005. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. (a) The
4 commission, department, and workforce commission may accept gifts,
5 grants, and donations from any public or private source for
6 purposes of the initiative.

7 (b) The commission, department, and workforce commission
8 shall investigate potential sources of funding from federal grants
9 or programs that may be used for purposes of the initiative.

10 SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2025, the executive
11 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, the chair
12 of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, and the chair of the Texas
13 Workforce Commission shall hold the initial discussion required
14 under Section 2308B.004, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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