

By: Menéndez, Cook

S.B. No. 2853

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to conducting an assessment of language accessibility with respect to certain health and human services programs and 2-1-1 services provided by the Texas Information and Referral Network.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

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

(2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the commission.

(b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the commission shall employ a language access coordinator to conduct an assessment of and identify gaps in non-English speakers' access to the health and human services programs administered by the commission and 2-1-1 services provided by the Texas Information and Referral Network.

(c) Not later than the first anniversary of the date the commission employs a language access coordinator under Subsection (b) of this section, the coordinator shall conduct the assessment described by that subsection and submit to the executive commissioner a written report that:

(1) summarizes the findings of the assessment; and

(2) provides recommendations for increasing non-English speakers' access to health and human services programs

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1 and 2-1-1 services provided by the Texas Information and Referral
2 Network throughout this state.

3 SECTION 2. This Act expires June 1, 2027.

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