

AN ACT

relating to services provided to youth with disabilities transitioning from school-oriented living to post-schooling activities, services for adults, and community living.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02445 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02445. TRANSITION SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The executive commissioner shall monitor programs and services offered through health and human services agencies designed to assist youth with disabilities to transition from school-oriented living to post-schooling activities, services for adults, or community living.

(b) In monitoring the programs and services, the executive commissioner shall:

(1) consider whether the programs or services result in positive outcomes in the employment, community integration, health, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities; and

(2) collect information regarding the outcomes of the transition process as necessary to assess the programs and services.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 117, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 117.058 to read as follows:

Sec. 117.058. SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.

1 (a) The department shall establish and require employee
2 participation in a specialized training program for certain
3 employees, including vocational rehabilitation transition
4 specialists and transition counselors, whose duties involve
5 assisting youth with disabilities to transition to post-schooling
6 activities, services for adults, or community living.

7 (b) The training program must provide employees with
8 information regarding:

9 (1) supports and services available from other health
10 and human services agencies for:

11 (A) youth with disabilities who are
12 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
13 or community living; and

14 (B) adults with disabilities;

15 (2) community resources available to improve the
16 quality of life for:

17 (A) youth with disabilities who are
18 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
19 or community living; and

20 (B) adults with disabilities; and

21 (3) other available resources that may remove
22 transitional barriers for youth with disabilities who are
23 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
24 or community living.

25 (c) In developing the training program required by this
26 section, the department shall collaborate with other health and
27 human services agencies as necessary.

1 SECTION 3. (a) In this section:

2 (1) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
3 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

4 (2) "Health and human services agency" means a health
5 and human services agency listed in Section 531.001, Government
6 Code, that regulates the care or treatment of a resident of a
7 facility.

8 (b) The executive commissioner shall establish a work group
9 to create and implement a plan to:

10 (1) ensure that an individual with a disability who is
11 transitioning into post-schooling activities, services for adults,
12 or community living has choices about the individual's work and
13 career and has the opportunity and support necessary to seek
14 individualized, competitive employment in the community;

15 (2) improve the collaboration between health and human
16 services agencies, other state agencies, and community and local
17 service providers to maximize existing supported employment
18 resources; and

19 (3) increase the quality and quantity of available
20 supported employment opportunities.

21 (c) The executive commissioner shall determine the number
22 of members to serve on the work group. The executive commissioner
23 shall appoint as members of the work group:

24 (1) a representative of the Department of State Health
25 Services;

26 (2) a representative of the Department of Aging and
27 Disability Services;

1 (3) a representative of the Department of Assistive
2 and Rehabilitative Services;

3 (4) a representative of the Health and Human Services
4 Commission;

5 (5) a representative of the Texas Workforce
6 Commission;

7 (6) a representative of the Texas Education Agency;

8 (7) a representative who is a recognized expert on, or
9 who represents the interests of, youth with disabilities who are
10 transitioning to post-schooling activities, services for adults,
11 or community living; and

12 (8) additional members who are recognized experts on,
13 or who represent the interests of, individuals with disabilities,
14 including advocates, family members, physicians, providers of
15 1915(c) waiver services, employers currently offering supported
16 employment opportunities, and community and local service
17 providers with experience in supported employment.

18 (d) In developing the plan, the work group shall focus on:

19 (1) increasing the quality of services and resulting
20 employment outcomes across disabilities; and

21 (2) increasing the cooperation among agencies and
22 community providers in the development and provision of seamless
23 supported employment services.

24 (e) Not later than April 1, 2008, the work group shall file
25 its recommended plan with the executive commissioner.

26 (f) The executive commissioner:

27 (1) not later than November 1, 2007, shall establish

1 the work group under Subsection (b) of this section;

2 (2) not later than October 1, 2008, shall adopt rules
3 necessary to implement the plan recommended by the work group; and

4 (3) not later than January 1, 2009, shall present to
5 the appropriate committees of the senate and the house of
6 representatives for consideration by the 81st Legislature a report
7 that describes the actions taken by the health and human services
8 agencies to implement the plan recommended by the work group and any
9 actions the agencies intend to take during the next biennium in
10 accordance with the recommended plan.

11 (g) This section expires September 1, 2009.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1230 was passed by the House on April 18, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1230 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor