

1-1 By: Parker, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Ellis) H.B. No. 2718
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 22, 2015;
 1-3 April 23, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
 1-4 and Human Services; May 21, 2015, reported adversely, with
 1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7,
 1-6 Nays 0; May 21, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17			X	

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2718 By: Rodríguez

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to a program to allow faith- and community-based
 1-22 organizations to offer supplemental assistance to certain
 1-23 recipients of public assistance.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
 1-26 amended by adding Section 531.02482 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 531.02482. FAITH- AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION
 1-28 SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. (a) In
 1-29 this section, "community-based organization" and "faith-based
 1-30 organization" have the meanings assigned by Section 535.001.

1-31 (b) The commission shall establish a program under which
 1-32 faith- and community-based organizations may, on the request of the
 1-33 applicant, contact and offer supplemental assistance to an
 1-34 applicant for benefits under:

1-35 (1) the financial assistance program under Chapter 31,
 1-36 Human Resources Code;

1-37 (2) the medical assistance program under Chapter 32,
 1-38 Human Resources Code;

1-39 (3) the supplemental nutrition assistance program
 1-40 under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code; or

1-41 (4) the child health plan program under Chapter 62,
 1-42 Health and Safety Code.

1-43 (c) At the time of application for benefits described by
 1-44 Subsection (b), an applicant must:

1-45 (1) be informed about and given the opportunity to
 1-46 enroll in the program; and

1-47 (2) be informed that enrolling in the program will not
 1-48 affect the person's eligibility for benefits.

1-49 (d) The commission shall develop a procedure under which
 1-50 faith- and community-based organizations may apply to participate
 1-51 in the program.

1-52 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to
 1-53 implement the program established under this section, including
 1-54 rules that:

1-55 (1) describe the types of faith- and community-based
 1-56 organizations that may apply to participate in the program and the
 1-57 qualifications and standards of service required of a participating
 1-58 organization;

1-59 (2) facilitate contact between a person who enrolls in
 1-60 the program and a faith- and community-based organization

2-1 participating in the program that provides supplemental services
2-2 that may be of assistance to the person;

2-3 (3) establish processes for the suspension,
2-4 revocation, and periodic renewal of an organization's
2-5 participation in the program, as appropriate;

2-6 (4) establish methods to ensure the confidentiality
2-7 and appropriate use of applicant information shared with a
2-8 participating organization; and

2-9 (5) permit a person enrolled in the program to
2-10 terminate the person's enrollment in the program.

2-11 (f) In establishing the program, the commission may solicit
2-12 expertise and assistance from interested persons, including faith-
2-13 and community-based organizations, and may establish a temporary
2-14 work group to provide input and assistance. This subsection
2-15 expires, and any work group established under this subsection is
2-16 abolished, September 1, 2017.

2-17 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
2-18 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
2-19 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
2-20 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
2-21 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
2-22 waiver or authorization is granted.

2-23 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
2-24 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
2-25 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement
2-26 the changes in law made by this Act.

2-27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2016.

2-28 * * * * *