

1-1 By: Frank, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Perry, West) H.B. No. 1483  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019;  
 1-3 April 15, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Finance; May 8, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 14, Nays 0; May 8, 2019,  
 1-6 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	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			
1-22	X			
1-23	X			

1-24 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1483 By: Perry

1-25 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-26 AN ACT

1-27 relating to a pilot program for assisting certain recipients of  
 1-28 public benefits to gain permanent self-sufficiency.

1-29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-30 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
 1-31 amended by adding Section 531.02241 to read as follows:

1-32 Sec. 531.02241. PILOT PROGRAM FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF  
 1-33 CERTAIN PERSONS RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR SUPPLEMENTAL  
 1-34 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS. (a) In this section:

1-35 (1) "Financial assistance benefits" means money  
 1-36 payments under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
 1-37 program operated under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, or under  
 1-38 the state temporary assistance and support services program  
 1-39 operated under Chapter 34, Human Resources Code.

1-40 (2) "Self-sufficiency" means being employed in a  
 1-41 position that pays a sufficient wage, having financial savings in  
 1-42 an amount that is equal to at least \$1,000 per member of a family's  
 1-43 household, and maintaining a debt-to-income ratio that does not  
 1-44 exceed 43 percent.

1-45 (3) "Slow reduction scale" means a graduated plan for  
 1-46 reducing financial assistance or supplemental nutrition assistance  
 1-47 benefits that correlates with a phase of the pilot program's  
 1-48 progressive stages toward self-sufficiency.

1-49 (4) "Sufficient wage" means an amount of money,  
 1-50 determined by a market-based calculation that uses geographically  
 1-51 specific expenditure data, that is sufficient to meet a family's  
 1-52 minimum necessary spending on basic needs, including food, child  
 1-53 care, health insurance, housing, and transportation.

1-54 (5) "Supplemental nutrition assistance benefits"  
 1-55 means money payments under the supplemental nutrition assistance  
 1-56 program operated under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code.

1-57 (b) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot  
 1-58 program for assisting not more than 500 eligible families to gain  
 1-59 permanent self-sufficiency and no longer require financial  
 1-60 assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance, or other

2-1 means-tested public benefits, notwithstanding the limitations and  
 2-2 requirements of Section 31.043, Human Resources Code. If the  
 2-3 number of families participating in the program during a year  
 2-4 reaches capacity for that year as determined by the commission, the  
 2-5 number of families that may be served under the program in the  
 2-6 following year may be increased by 20 percent.

2-7 (c) The pilot program will test extending, for at least 24  
 2-8 months but not more than 60 months, financial assistance and  
 2-9 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits by waiving the  
 2-10 application of income and asset limit eligibility requirements for  
 2-11 those benefits and the time limits under Section 31.0065, Human  
 2-12 Resources Code, for financial assistance benefits to allow for  
 2-13 continuation of financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
 2-14 assistance benefits and reduction of the benefits using a slow  
 2-15 reduction scale. The commission shall freeze a participating  
 2-16 family's eligibility status for the benefits beginning on the date  
 2-17 the participating family enters the pilot program and ending on the  
 2-18 date the family ceases participating in the program. The waiver of  
 2-19 the application of any asset limit requirement must allow the  
 2-20 family to have assets in an amount that is at least \$1,000 per  
 2-21 member of the family's household.

2-22 (d) The pilot program must be designed to allow social  
 2-23 services providers, public benefit offices, and other community  
 2-24 partners to refer potential participating families to the program.

2-25 (e) A family is eligible to participate in the pilot program  
 2-26 established under this section if the family:

2-27 (1) includes one or more members who are recipients of  
 2-28 financial assistance or supplemental nutrition assistance  
 2-29 benefits, at least one of whom is:

2-30 (A) at least 18 but not more than 62 years of age;  
 2-31 and

2-32 (B) willing, and physically and legally able, to  
 2-33 be employed; and

2-34 (2) has a total household income that is less than a  
 2-35 sufficient wage based on the family's makeup and geographical area  
 2-36 of residence.

2-37 (f) The pilot program must be designed to assist eligible  
 2-38 participating families in attaining self-sufficiency by:

2-39 (1) identifying eligibility requirements for the  
 2-40 continuation of financial assistance or supplemental nutrition  
 2-41 assistance benefits and time limits for the benefits, the  
 2-42 application of which may be waived for a limited period and that, if  
 2-43 applied, would impede self-sufficiency;

2-44 (2) implementing strategies, including waiving the  
 2-45 application of the eligibility requirements and time limits  
 2-46 identified in Subdivision (1), to remove barriers to  
 2-47 self-sufficiency; and

2-48 (3) moving eligible participating families through  
 2-49 progressive stages toward self-sufficiency that include the  
 2-50 following phases:

2-51 (A) an initial phase in which a family moves out  
 2-52 of an emergent crisis by securing housing, medical care, and  
 2-53 financial assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance  
 2-54 benefits, as necessary;

2-55 (B) a second phase in which:

2-56 (i) the family moves toward stability by  
 2-57 securing employment and, if necessary, child care and by  
 2-58 participating in services that build the financial management  
 2-59 skills necessary to meet financial goals; and

2-60 (ii) the family's financial assistance and  
 2-61 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits are reduced according  
 2-62 to the following scale:

2-63 (a) on reaching 25 percent of the  
 2-64 family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits is reduced by 10  
 2-65 percent;

2-66 (b) on reaching 50 percent of the  
 2-67 family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits is reduced by 25  
 2-68 percent; and

2-69 (c) on reaching 75 percent of the

3-1 family's sufficient wage, the amount of benefits is reduced by 50  
3-2 percent;  
3-3 (C) a third phase in which the family:  
3-4 (i) transitions to self-sufficiency by  
3-5 securing employment that pays a sufficient wage, reducing debt, and  
3-6 building savings; and  
3-7 (ii) becomes ineligible for financial  
3-8 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits on  
3-9 reaching 100 percent of the family's sufficient wage; and  
3-10 (D) a final phase in which the family attains  
3-11 self-sufficiency by retaining employment that pays a sufficient  
3-12 wage, amassing at least \$1,000 per member of the family's  
3-13 household, and having manageable debt so that the family will no  
3-14 longer be dependent on financial assistance, supplemental  
3-15 nutrition assistance, or other means-tested public benefits for at  
3-16 least six months following the date the family stops participating  
3-17 in the program.  
3-18 (g) A person from a family that wishes to participate in the  
3-19 pilot program must attend an in-person intake meeting with a  
3-20 program case manager. During the intake meeting the case manager  
3-21 shall:  
3-22 (1) determine whether:  
3-23 (A) the person's family meets the eligibility  
3-24 requirements under Subsection (e); and  
3-25 (B) the application of income or asset limit  
3-26 eligibility requirements for continuation of financial assistance  
3-27 and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits and the time limits  
3-28 under Section 31.0065, Human Resources Code, for financial  
3-29 assistance benefits may be waived under the program;  
3-30 (2) review the family's demographic information and  
3-31 household financial budget;  
3-32 (3) assess the family members' current financial and  
3-33 career situations;  
3-34 (4) collaborate with the person to develop and  
3-35 implement strategies for removing barriers to the family attaining  
3-36 self-sufficiency, including waiving the application of income and  
3-37 asset limit eligibility requirements and time limits described by  
3-38 Subdivision (1)(B) to allow for continuation of financial  
3-39 assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance benefits; and  
3-40 (5) if the person's family is determined to be eligible  
3-41 for and chooses to participate in the program, schedule a follow-up  
3-42 meeting to further assess the family's crisis, review available  
3-43 referral services, and create a service plan.  
3-44 (h) A participating family must be assigned a program case  
3-45 manager who shall:  
3-46 (1) if the family is determined to be eligible,  
3-47 provide the family with a verification of the waived application of  
3-48 asset, income, and time limits described by Subsection (c),  
3-49 allowing the family to continue receiving financial assistance and  
3-50 supplemental nutrition assistance benefits on a slow reduction  
3-51 scale;  
3-52 (2) assess, at the follow-up meeting scheduled under  
3-53 Subsection (g)(5), the family's crisis, review available referral  
3-54 services, and create a service plan; and  
3-55 (3) during the initial phase of the program, create  
3-56 medium- and long-term goals consistent with the strategies  
3-57 developed under Subsection (g)(4).  
3-58 (i) The pilot program must provide each participating  
3-59 family placed in the research group described by Subsection  
3-60 (j)(3)(C) with holistic, wraparound case management services that  
3-61 meet all applicable program requirements under 7 C.F.R. Section  
3-62 273.7(e) or 45 C.F.R. Section 261.10, as applicable. Case  
3-63 management services provided under this subsection must include the  
3-64 strategic use of financial assistance and supplemental nutrition  
3-65 assistance benefits to ensure that the goals included in the  
3-66 family's service plan are achieved. The wraparound case management  
3-67 services must be provided through a community-based provider.  
3-68 (j) The pilot program must operate for at least 24 months.  
3-69 The program shall also include 16 additional months for:

4-1 (1) planning and designing the program before the  
4-2 program begins operation;  
4-3 (2) recruiting eligible families to participate in the  
4-4 program;  
4-5 (3) randomly placing each participating family in one  
4-6 of at least three research groups, including:  
4-7 (A) a control group;  
4-8 (B) a group consisting of families for whom the  
4-9 application of income, asset, and time limits described by  
4-10 Subsection (c) is waived; and  
4-11 (C) a group consisting of families for whom the  
4-12 application of income, asset, and time limits described by  
4-13 Subsection (c) is waived and who receive wraparound case management  
4-14 services under the program; and  
4-15 (4) after the program begins operation, collecting and  
4-16 sharing data that allows for:  
4-17 (A) obtaining participating families'  
4-18 eligibility and identification data before a family is randomly  
4-19 placed in a research group under Subdivision (3);  
4-20 (B) conducting surveys or interviews of  
4-21 participating families to obtain information that is not contained  
4-22 in records related to a family's eligibility for financial  
4-23 assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance, or other  
4-24 means-tested public benefits;  
4-25 (C) providing quarterly reports for not more than  
4-26 60 months after a participating family is enrolled in the pilot  
4-27 program regarding the program's effect on the family's labor market  
4-28 participation and income and need for means-tested public benefits;  
4-29 (D) assessing the interaction of the program's  
4-30 components with the desired outcomes of the program using data  
4-31 collected during the program and data obtained from state agencies  
4-32 concerning means-tested public benefits; and  
4-33 (E) a third party to conduct a rigorous  
4-34 experimental impact evaluation of the pilot program.  
4-35 (k) The commission shall develop and implement the pilot  
4-36 program with the assistance of the Texas Workforce Commission,  
4-37 local workforce development boards, faith-based and other relevant  
4-38 public or private organizations, and any other entity or person the  
4-39 commission determines appropriate.  
4-40 (l) The commission shall monitor and evaluate the pilot  
4-41 program in a manner that allows for promoting research-informed  
4-42 results of the program.  
4-43 (m) On the conclusion of the pilot program but not later  
4-44 than 48 months following the date the last participating family is  
4-45 enrolled in the program, the commission shall report to the  
4-46 legislature on the results of the program. The report must include:  
4-47 (1) an evaluation of the program's effect on  
4-48 participating families in achieving self-sufficiency and no longer  
4-49 requiring means-tested public benefits;  
4-50 (2) the impact to this state on the costs of the  
4-51 financial assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance  
4-52 programs and of the child-care services program operated by the  
4-53 Texas Workforce Commission;  
4-54 (3) a cost-benefit analysis of the program; and  
4-55 (4) recommendations on the feasibility and  
4-56 continuation of the program.  
4-57 (n) During the operation of the pilot program, the  
4-58 commission shall provide to the legislature additional reports  
4-59 concerning the program that the commission determines to be  
4-60 appropriate.  
4-61 (o) The executive commissioner and the Texas Workforce  
4-62 Commission may adopt rules to implement this section.  
4-63 (p) This section expires September 1, 2026.  
4-64 SECTION 2. The Health and Human Services Commission is  
4-65 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the  
4-66 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If  
4-67 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
4-68 purpose, the commission may, but is not required to, implement a  
4-69 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that

5-1 purpose.

5-2 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
5-3 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
5-4 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
5-5 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
5-6 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
5-7 waiver or authorization is granted.

5-8 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5-9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5-10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5-11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5-12 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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