

1-1 By: Miles S.B. No. 1777
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 28, 2025; March 13, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human
1-4 Services; April 22, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
1-6 April 22, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Kolkhorst	X		
1-10	Perry	X		
1-11	Blanco	X		
1-12	Cook	X		
1-13	Hall	X		
1-14	Hancock	X		
1-15	Hughes	X		
1-16	Miles	X		
1-17	Sparks	X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1777 By: Hancock

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

1-21 relating to a prohibition on payments for certain group home
1-22 referrals; creating a criminal offense.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter ~~769~~, Health and Safety Code, as added by
1-25 Chapter 141 (S.B. 188), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular
1-26 Session, 2023, is redesignated as Chapter 767, Health and Safety
1-27 Code, and amended to read as follows:

1-28 CHAPTER ~~769~~ 767 [769]. REGULATION OF CERTAIN GROUP HOMES

1-29 Sec. ~~769.001~~ 767.001 [769.001]. DEFINITION. In this chapter,
1-30 "group home" means an establishment that:

1-31 (1) provides, in one or more buildings, lodging to
1-32 three or more residents who are unrelated by blood or marriage to
1-33 the owner of the establishment; and

1-34 (2) provides those residents with community meals,
1-35 light housework, meal preparation, transportation, grocery
1-36 shopping, money management, laundry services, or assistance with
1-37 self-administration of medication but does not provide personal
1-38 care services as defined by Section 247.002.

1-39 Sec. ~~769.002~~ 767.002 [769.002]. EXEMPTIONS. This chapter does
1-40 not apply to:

1-41 (1) a person who holds a license issued under Chapter
1-42 ~~142~~, 242, 246, 247, or 252;

1-43 (2) a person, establishment, or facility exempt from
1-44 licensing under Section 142.003(a)(19), 242.003(3), or 247.004(4);

1-45 (3) a hotel as defined by Section ~~156.001~~, Tax Code;

1-46 (4) a retirement community;

1-47 (5) a monastery or convent;

1-48 (6) a child-care facility as defined by Section
1-49 ~~42.002~~, Human Resources Code;

1-50 (7) a family violence shelter center as defined by
1-51 Section ~~51.002~~, Human Resources Code; or

1-52 (8) a sorority or fraternity house or other dormitory
1-53 associated with an institution of higher education.

1-54 Sec. ~~769.003~~ 767.003 [769.003]. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD
1-55 INFORMATION REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS AND EMPLOYEES; CRIMINAL
1-56 PENALTY. (a) An owner or operator of a group home shall obtain
1-57 criminal history record information maintained by the Department of
1-58 Public Safety of the State of Texas on each individual who is an
1-59 applicant for employment with or an employee of the group home.

1-60 (b) An owner or operator of a group home may not hire or

continue to employ an individual for whom the owner or operator obtains criminal history record information on the applicant's or employee's conviction of an offense under Chapter 19, 20, 20A, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 33A, 34, 35, 35A, or 71, Penal Code, or Section 48.015, 48.02, 48.03, or 48.04, Penal Code, or any other offense punishable as a Class A misdemeanor or a felony.

(c) An owner or operator of a group home who violates Subsection (b) commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Sec. 767.004. PROHIBITED PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN GROUP HOME REFERRALS; CRIMINAL PENALTY. (a) In this section, "health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to provide health care services in this state.

(b) A health care provider or employee or contractor of a health care provider may not accept any form of payment for referring a potential resident to a group home if the group home is owned or operated by a person who does not hold a license or permit for the group home issued in accordance with applicable state laws or local regulations.

(c) A health care provider or employee or contractor of a health care provider who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

SECTION 2. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

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

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