

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study on homeless youth.

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

4 SECTION 1. Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by
5 adding Subchapter OO to read as follows:

6 SUBCHAPTER OO. HOMELESS YOUTH

7 Sec. 2306.1101. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "homeless
8 youth" means a person who is younger than 19 years of age, including
9 a migratory child, as defined by Section 1309, Elementary and
10 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6399), who:

11 (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime
12 residence, including a person who is:

13 (A) living in an emergency shelter;

14 (B) abandoned in a hospital; or

15 (C) awaiting foster care placement;

16 (2) has a primary nighttime residence that is a public
17 or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular
18 sleeping accommodation for humans; or

19 (3) is living in a car, park, other public space,
20 abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or
21 similar setting.

22 Sec. 2306.1102. STUDY ON HOMELESS YOUTH. (a) The
23 department, in conjunction with other members of the Texas
24 Interagency Council for the Homeless established under Subchapter

1 KK, shall conduct a study on homeless youth.

2 (b) In conducting the study, the department shall:

3 (1) collect data on the number of homeless youth in
4 this state;

5 (2) examine the needs of homeless youth and the degree
6 to which current programs are meeting those needs;

7 (3) identify any sources of funding that might be
8 available to provide services to homeless youth; and

9 (4) develop a strategic plan establishing steps to be
10 taken and timelines for reducing youth homelessness in this state.

11 (c) The department shall submit a report on the study to the
12 legislature not later than December 1, 2016. The report must
13 include a summary of the information resulting from the study and
14 recommendations for changes in law necessary to provide services to
15 or otherwise assist homeless youth.

16 (d) This section expires September 1, 2017.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 679 was passed by the House on April 16, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 92, Nays 50, 3 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 679 on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 110, Nays 33, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 679 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 20, Nays 10.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor