

CHAPTER 830

H.B. No. 54

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a parental responsibility pilot program to assist certain teenage parents receiving AFDC.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The Texas Department of Human Services shall establish a parental responsibility pilot program designed to discourage teenage pregnancy, encourage teenage parents to marry, and improve through education, job training, and support services the work and parenting skills of a teenage parent who receives financial assistance under the department's aid to families with dependent children program. The department shall, when appropriate, include both parents of the child in the program.

(b) The department shall adopt rules and a timetable to implement and complete the pilot program. The department shall use the Wisconsin parental and family responsibility initiative as a model for the pilot program and adapted as necessary for Texas conditions.

(c) The department shall select not more than three counties, each with a population of 200,000 or more according to the most recent federal census, in which to establish the pilot program.

SECTION 2. REPORT. Not later than January 1, 1997, the Texas Department of Human Services shall submit to the governor and the 75th Legislature a report concerning the effectiveness of the pilot program.

SECTION 3. WAIVERS. If before implementing Section 1 of this Act the Texas Department of Human Services determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation, the department shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing those provisions until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DEADLINES. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

(b) The Texas Department of Human Services shall establish the pilot program required by this Act not later than January 1, 1994.

SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires September 1, 1997.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 12, 1993, by a non-record vote; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 54 on May 26, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 1993, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 19, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.