AN ACT

relating to ensuring local governmental and community input in any federal refugee resettlement program established in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0411 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0411. RULES REGARDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.

(a) In this section, "local resettlement agency" and "national voluntary agency" have the meanings assigned by 45 C.F.R. Section 400.2.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to ensure that local governmental and community input is included in any refugee placement report required under a federal refugee resettlement program and that governmental entities and officials are provided with related information. In adopting rules under this section, the executive commissioner shall, to the extent permitted under federal law, ensure that:

(1) meetings are convened, at least quarterly, in the communities proposed for refugee placement at which representatives of local resettlement agencies have an opportunity to consult with and obtain feedback from local governmental entities and officials, including municipal and county officials, local school district officials, and representatives of local law enforcement agencies, and from other community stakeholders,
including major providers under the local health care system and
major employers of refugees, regarding proposed refugee placement;

(2) a local resettlement agency:

(A) considers all feedback obtained in meetings
conducted under Subdivision (1) before preparing a proposed annual
report on the placement of refugees for purposes of 8 U.S.C. Section
1522(b)(7)(E);

(B) informs the state and local governmental
entities and officials and community stakeholders described under
Subdivision (1) of the proposed annual report; and

(C) develops a final annual report for the
national voluntary agencies and the commission that includes a
summary regarding how stakeholder input contributed to the report;
and

(3) the commission:

(A) obtains from local resettlement agencies the
preliminary number of refugees the local resettlement agencies
recommended to the national voluntary agencies for placement in
communities throughout this state and provides that information to
local governmental entities and officials in those communities; and

(B) obtains from the United States Department of
State or other appropriate federal agency the number of refugees
apportioned to this state and provides that information and
information regarding the number of refugees intended to be placed
in each community in this state to local governmental entities and
officials in those communities.

SECTION 2. Not later than May 1, 2016, the executive
S.B. No. 1928

commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
adopt the rules required under Section 531.0411, Government Code,
as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
Act takes effect September 1, 2015.
S.B. No. 1928

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1928 passed the Senate on May 5, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 30, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1928 passed the House, with amendment, on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, two present not voting.

Approved:

6-13-2015

Greg Abbott
Governor

S.B. No. 1928

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
6:30 a.m. 6-13-2015

Secretary of State
TO: Honorable Richard Peña Raymond, Chair, House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1928 by Seliger (Relating to ensuring local governmental and community input in any federal refugee resettlement program established in this state.), Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 531 of the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt rules for gathering and considering community input on the local refugee distribution reporting requirements for the United States Refugee Resettlement Program. The rules also must require HHSC to gather certain information from local resettlement agencies and the federal government and distribute it to state and local governmental entities and certain officials. The bill also requires HHSC to adopt the rules by May 1, 2016.

HHSC has indicated that costs related to rules adoption are immaterial and would be absorbed within existing resources. This analysis assumes that HHSC will absorb any additional costs associated with gathering and distributing information within existing resources.

The bill would go into effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house. Otherwise, the bill would take effect on September 1, 2015.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 529 Health and Human Services Commission

LBB Staff: UP, NB, MH, CG, FR, KVe
TO: Honorable Donna Campbell, Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations
FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1928 by Seliger (Relating to the rulemaking authority of the Health and Human Services Commission to provide for the placement of refugees in this state.), Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 531 of the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt rules for gathering and considering community input on the local refugee distribution reporting requirements for the United States Refugee Resettlement Program. The bill also requires HHSC to adopt the rules by May 1, 2016.

HHSC has indicated that costs related to rules adoption are immaterial and would be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would go into effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house. Otherwise, the bill would take effect on September 1, 2015.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 529 Health and Human Services Commission
LBB Staff: UP, FR, CG, KVe, MH
TO: Honorable Donna Campbell, Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1928 by Seliger (Relating to the rulemaking authority of the Health and Human Services Commission to provide for the placement of refugees in this state.), As Introduced

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 531 of the Government Code to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt rules for gathering and considering community input on the local refugee distribution reporting requirements for the United States Refugee Resettlement Program. The bill also requires HHSC to adopt the rules by May 1, 2016.

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Source Agencies: 529 Health and Human Services Commission

LBB Staff: UP, FR, MH, CG