

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R9403 KKA-F

H.B. 3125
By: Truitt (Zaffirini)
Finance
5/21/2003
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment program was created by the 75th Texas Legislature to provide blindness prevention education, screening and treatment for Texans who are not covered under an adequate health benefit plan. Current Texas law prohibits the Texas Commission for the Blind (TCB) from applying donated funds toward a federal match. H.B. 3125 revises the current program to include transition services for eligible blind Texans, which would allow TCB to use that portion of the donated money as a match to draw down additional federal dollars for services.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 91.027(a) and (b), Human Resources Code, as follows:

(a) Requires the Texas Commission for the Blind (TCB), to the extent that funds are available under Sections 521.421(f) and 521.422(b), Transportation Code, to operate, rather than develop, a Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment Program to provide transition services to blind disabled individuals eligible for vocational rehabilitation services under Section 91.052. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

(b) Requires the program to include transition services. Deletes a reference to TCB implementing the program to the extent funds are available.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.