

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 5581

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an oversight advisory council on foster care placement.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 40.029 to read as follows:

Sec. 40.029. OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT. (a) In this section, "oversight advisory council" means the oversight advisory council on foster care placement established under this section.

(b) The oversight advisory council on foster care placement is established to advise the department on foster care placements and review complaints regarding the foster care placement of children in the conservatorship of the department.

(c) The oversight advisory council is composed of seven members as follows:

(1) five members appointed by the governor, including:

(A) one member who represents a religious organization;

(B) one member who represents a law enforcement agency;

(C) one member who is a foster care parent; and

(D) two members who represent the foster care community;

1 (2) one member who represents the foster care
2 community, appointed by the lieutenant governor; and

3 (3) one member who represents the foster care
4 community, appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives.

6 (d) Members of the oversight advisory council serve
7 staggered four-year terms, with the terms of one-half of the
8 members, or as near to one-half as possible, expiring on February 1
9 of each odd-numbered year.

10 (e) The members of the oversight advisory council serve
11 without compensation and may not be reimbursed for travel expenses
12 incurred while conducting the business of the council.

13 (f) The members of the oversight advisory council shall
14 select from among the members a presiding officer of the council.

15 (g) The oversight advisory council shall meet at least twice
16 each year at the call of the presiding officer.

17 (h) The oversight advisory council shall review the
18 department's foster care placement system and complaints submitted
19 to the department or the Health and Human Services Commission
20 regarding the foster care placement of children in the
21 conservatorship of the department.

22 (i) The department and the Health and Human Services
23 Commission shall provide to the oversight advisory council
24 information, including relevant testimony, on the foster care
25 placement system and on complaints filed with the department or
26 commission regarding the foster care placement of children in the
27 conservatorship of the department.

1 (j) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
2 the oversight advisory council shall prepare and submit to the
3 department, the Health and Human Services Commission, and the
4 standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary
5 jurisdiction over foster care:

6 (1) a written report summarizing the council's
7 determinations about the foster care placement system and the
8 complaints reviewed regarding foster care placement; and

9 (2) any recommendations for legislation or other
10 action.

11 (k) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
12 oversight advisory council.

13 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2025, the governor,
14 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
15 shall appoint the initial members of the oversight advisory council
16 on foster care placement as required by Section 40.029, Human
17 Resources Code, as added by this Act, to staggered terms with the
18 terms of three members expiring February 1, 2027, and the terms of
19 four members expiring February 1, 2029.

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