

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R2044 KSD-D

H.B. 263
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Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are established to ensure effective coordination among the professionals who investigate and prosecute child abuse. H.B. 263 provides additional clarity and an accurate reflection of current practices regarding organizational structure, ongoing operations, and delivery of services among CACs.

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 264.402, 264.404, and 264.406, Family Code, as follows:

Sec. 264.402. Authorizes a children's advocacy center to be established by community members and the participating entities described by Section 264.403(a) to serve a county or two or more contiguous counties.

Sec. 264.404. New heading: BOARD REPRESENTATION. (a) Requires the governing board of a children's advocacy center, in addition to any other persons appointed or elected to serve on the governing board of a children' advocacy center, to include an executive officer of, or an employee selected by an executive officer of, certain entities.

(b) Provides that service on a center's board by an executive, rather than a public, officer or employee under Subsection (a) is an additional duty of the person's office or employment.

Sec. 264.406. (a) Requires a center's multidisciplinary team, rather than the governing board, to include employees of the participating agencies who are professionals involved in the investigation or prosecution of child abuse cases.

(b) Authorizes a center's multidisciplinary team to also include professionals involved in the delivery of services, including medical and mental health services, to child abuse victims and the victims' families.

(c) Requires a multidisciplinary team to meet at regularly scheduled intervals to perform certain duties.

Redesignates existing Subsection (b) as (d) and (f) as (e). Deletes existing Subsections (c), (d), and (e).

SECTION 2. Amends Section 264.411(a), Family Code, to provide that a public entity that operated as a center under this subchapter before November 1, 1995, or a nonprofit entity is eligible for a contract under Section 264.410 if the entity meets certain conditions.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 411.114(a)(3), Government Code, to add a new Subdivision (p) to

existing text to entitle the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to obtain from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) criminal history record information maintained by DPS that relates to a person who is an employee, volunteer, or applicant volunteer of a children's advocacy center under Subchapter E, Chapter 264, Family Code, including a member of the governing board of a center.

SECTION 4. (a) Effective date: September 1, 2003.

(b) Makes application of the change in law made by this Act to Section 264.411(a), Family Code, prospective.