

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2058
By: Villarreal
Human Services
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In 2000, the state did not achieve substantial conformity with six of the seven national standards for safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect. The state did not meet the national standards for measures relating to the length of time to achieve adoption and to children's placement stability while in foster care. The most significant concern with regard to outcomes is the state's inconsistency in achieving permanency for children in foster care. In only 72 percent of the cases reviewed, children have permanency and stability in their living situations. Key areas were identified as needing improvement:

- the stability of foster care placements;
- the appropriateness of the permanency goal for children;
- attainment of permanency through reunification, guardianship, or permanent placement with relatives; and
- attainment of permanency through adoption.

The state also did not achieve substantial conformity with Safety Outcome 1 (Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect) or Safety Outcome 2 (Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate). During a case review by the Administration for Children and Families, key areas assessed were identified as needing improvement, including the provision of services to families to protect children in home and prevent removal and managing the risk of harm to children.

House Bill 2058 would determine the extent to which persons with whom the department contracts are achieving the goals and outcomes included in the contract and the federally mandated and state-mandated objectives of the program to ensure the department is meeting federal guidelines, as well as providing quality services to the children in state custody.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

ANALYSIS

House Bill 2058 requires the state to conduct a study of a random sample of five percent of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (department) state office contracts under Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, through which program services are provided. The bill requires the department to determine the extent to which each contractor that provides program services for children is achieving:

- the goals and outcomes included in the person's contract; and
- federally mandated and state-mandated objectives of the program.

The bill requires the department to report the results of the study to the governor, the legislature, the Legislative Budget Board, the Sunset Advisory Commission and the State Auditor's Office by December 31, 2004.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

CSHB 2058 differs from the original by requiring the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (department) to conduct a study of a random sample of five percent of the department's state office contracts, and the original required the department to conduct a study to determine the extent to which each person with whom the department contracted with to provide program services for children.