

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 490
By: Shapleigh
State Health Care Expenditures, Select
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Until the age of three, all children with mental health needs are entitled to services from the Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention (ECI council). However, after the age of three, children with mental health needs become the responsibility of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) and school districts. Therefore, children three years of age and older who were once entitled to services may no longer be eligible to receive these services. As proposed, S.B. 490 directs MHMR and the ECI council to jointly develop a continuum of care for children younger than seven years of age who have mental illness, and a plan to increase the expertise of MHMR's service providers of mental health issues for this population. This bill also directs MHMR and the ECI council to coordinate, when practical, activities and services involving children with mental illness and their families.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 533.040, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (d), to require the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR) and the Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention (ECI council) to jointly develop certain programs, relating to care for certain children and expertise on issues involving certain children, and coordinate, if practicable, MHMR and ECI council activities and services involving children with mental illness and their families.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE

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, 2003.