

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
78R616 SMJ-D

S.B. 490  
By: Shapleigh  
Health & Human Services  
3/5/2003  
As Filed

### **DIGEST 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**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION 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.