

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1065
By: Shapiro
Human Services
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Prior to September 1, 2001, the turnover rate for Child Protective Services (CPS) in Dallas and Tarrant Counties was 43 and 25 percent respectively. Since trainees counted toward the full-time employee cap, the caps on full-time employees prevented the training academy from enrolling enough trainees to fill vacant positions even though the trainees could not actively work on cases.

To address the shortage of CPS workers, S.B. 962 from the 77th legislative session created a pilot program in Dallas and Tarrant counties to temporarily increase the enrollment of CPS trainees to twice the then current limit. Although the program was a tremendous success it is scheduled to be terminated August 31, 2003.

Senate Bill 1065 requires the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to renew the program in Dallas and Tarrant counties subject to available funding. It also requires the department to submit a report to the legislature in December 2004 regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

ANALYSIS

Senate Bill 1065 provides definitions for a caseworker, department, target region, and target training academy. The bill directs the department of Regulatory and Services (department) to implement a pilot project in the target region, subject to available funding, and provides the department with certain duties for implementation of the project, including an expiration date for the program. The bill requires the department to submit a report to the legislature not later than December 1, 2004, regarding the impact of the pilot program on the retention of caseworkers, an assessment of the continuing need for the pilot program along with a recommendation regarding whether the program should be continued, and requires the legislature to consider the report when considering additional legislation to address the need for certain regions of the state for CPS caseworkers.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.