

1-1 By: Hunter (Senate Sponsor - Deuell) H.B. No. 3264  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 19, 2003;  
1-3 May 20, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Health  
1-4 and Human Services; May 23, 2003, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 23, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the prevention of childhood lead poisoning.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. This Act may be known as the Childhood Lead  
1-11 Poisoning Prevention Act.

1-12 SECTION 2. (a) The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act  
1-13 represents an effort by this state to prioritize education,  
1-14 screening, and the overall prevention of childhood lead poisoning.  
1-15 Nearly one million American children may have levels of lead in  
1-16 their blood in excess of 10 micrograms per deciliter. Unless  
1-17 prevented or treated, elevated blood lead levels in egregious cases  
1-18 may result in impairment of the ability to think, concentrate, and  
1-19 learn. In addition, increased numbers of affected children result  
1-20 in increased recurring expenses for the state in the form of special  
1-21 education and other educational expenses, medical care for  
1-22 lead-poisoned children, and expenditures for delinquent youth and  
1-23 others needing special supervision.

1-24 (b) A significant cause of lead poisoning in children is the  
1-25 ingestion of lead particles from deteriorating or abraded  
1-26 lead-based paint from older, poorly maintained residences. The  
1-27 dangers posed by lead-based paint can be substantially reduced and  
1-28 largely eliminated by taking measures to prevent paint  
1-29 deterioration and by limiting children's exposure to paint chips  
1-30 and lead dust.

1-31 (c) The incidence of childhood lead poisoning can be reduced  
1-32 substantially without significant additional cost to the state by  
1-33 creating appropriate incentives for property owners to make their  
1-34 properties lead-free or lead-safe and by targeting existing state  
1-35 resources.

1-36 SECTION 3. Section 88.001, Health and Safety Code, is  
1-37 amended by adding Subdivision (12) to read as follows:

1-38 (12) "Board" means the Texas Board of Health.

1-39 SECTION 4. Chapter 88, Health and Safety Code, is amended by  
1-40 adding Section 88.0025 to read as follows:

1-41 Sec. 88.0025. CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION.

1-42 (a) The board may implement policies and procedures to promote the  
1-43 elimination of childhood lead poisoning within the state. The  
1-44 board may adopt measures to:

1-45 (1) significantly reduce the incidence of childhood  
1-46 lead poisoning throughout the state;

1-47 (2) improve public awareness of lead safety issues and  
1-48 educate both property owners and tenants about practices that can  
1-49 reduce the incidence of lead poisoning; and

1-50 (3) encourage the testing of children likely to suffer  
1-51 the consequences of lead poisoning so that prompt diagnosis and  
1-52 treatment and the prevention of harm are possible.

1-53 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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