

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 1065

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to a pilot project to address continuing needs for more child protective services caseworkers in certain regions of this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Caseworker" means a full-time employee who is a child protective service specialist.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

(3) "Target region" means a department service region in which the department, before September 1, 2003, implemented a pilot project under Chapter 607, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, and subsequently terminated the pilot project after successfully reducing vacancies in authorized caseworker positions in that service region.

(4) "Target training academy" means a training academy that trains caseworkers for the department and that is located in a target region.

SECTION 2. PILOT PROJECT. Subject to available funding, the department shall implement a pilot project to assist a target region in continuing to accomplish the goals of the pilot project under Chapter 607, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001.

1           SECTION 3. DEPARTMENT DUTIES. In implementing the pilot  
2 project under this Act, the department shall:

3           (1) remove the limit on the number of authorized  
4 caseworker positions in a target region;

5           (2) increase the number of trainee positions in a  
6 target training academy to a total that is 140 percent of the number  
7 of trainee positions immediately before September 1, 2003;

8           (3) maintain the number of trainers and other  
9 necessary training academy positions in a target training academy  
10 at the level necessary to accomplish the purposes of Subdivision  
11 (2) of this section; and

12           (4) provide available funds as necessary to accomplish  
13 the purposes of Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

14           SECTION 4. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2004, the  
15 department shall submit a report to the legislature regarding the  
16 effect of the pilot project under this Act on the retention of  
17 caseworkers in each target region in which the pilot project under  
18 this Act is implemented. The report must include an assessment of  
19 the continuing need for the pilot project and a recommendation on  
20 whether the project should be continued. The legislature shall  
21 consider the report in considering additional legislation to  
22 address the need of certain regions of the state for child  
23 protective services caseworkers.

24           SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
25 1, 2003.

26           SECTION 6. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires September 1,  
27 2005.