

1-1 By: Shapiro S.B. No. 1065
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2003; March 17, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;
1-4 April 2, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; April 2, 2003, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to a pilot project to address continuing needs for more
1-9 child protective services caseworkers in certain regions of this
1-10 state.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

1-13 (1) "Caseworker" means a full-time employee who is a
1-14 child protective service specialist.

1-15 (2) "Department" means the Department of Protective
1-16 and Regulatory Services.

1-17 (3) "Target region" means a department service region
1-18 in which the department, before September 1, 2003, implemented a
1-19 pilot project under Chapter 607, Acts of the 77th Legislature,
1-20 Regular Session, 2001, and subsequently terminated the pilot
1-21 project after successfully reducing vacancies in authorized
1-22 caseworker positions in that service region.

1-23 (4) "Target training academy" means a training academy
1-24 that trains caseworkers for the department and that is located in a
1-25 target region.

1-26 SECTION 2. PILOT PROJECT. Subject to available funding,
1-27 the department shall implement a pilot project to assist a target
1-28 region in continuing to accomplish the goals of the pilot project
1-29 under Chapter 607, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session,
1-30 2001.

1-31 SECTION 3. DEPARTMENT DUTIES. In implementing the pilot
1-32 project under this Act, the department shall:

1-33 (1) remove the limit on the number of authorized
1-34 caseworker positions in a target region;

1-35 (2) increase the number of trainee positions in a
1-36 target training academy to a total that is 140 percent of the number
1-37 of trainee positions immediately before September 1, 2003;

1-38 (3) maintain the number of trainers and other
1-39 necessary training academy positions in a target training academy
1-40 at the level necessary to accomplish the purposes of Subdivision
1-41 (2) of this section; and

1-42 (4) provide available funds as necessary to accomplish
1-43 the purposes of Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

1-44 SECTION 4. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2004, the
1-45 department shall submit a report to the legislature regarding the
1-46 effect of the pilot project under this Act on the retention of
1-47 caseworkers in each target region in which the pilot project under
1-48 this Act is implemented. The report must include an assessment of
1-49 the continuing need for the pilot project and a recommendation on
1-50 whether the project should be continued. The legislature shall
1-51 consider the report in considering additional legislation to
1-52 address the need of certain regions of the state for child
1-53 protective services caseworkers.

1-54 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
1-55 1, 2003.

1-56 SECTION 6. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires September 1,
1-57 2005.

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