

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 983  
By: Reyna  
Public Education  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

There has been an increase in births to unmarried parents in Texas from 1995 to 2002. To address this problem the Office of the Attorney general created the "Parenting and Paternity Awareness" (P.A.P.A.) program. The curriculum involved in the program includes discussions regarding marriage, committed relationships, and emphasizes the importance of fathers to a child's well-being. Many teachers across Texas have received the curriculum training with positive response from both teachers and students. However, the Texas Education Code does not require school districts to provide an educational program or support services for students who are parents or who are pregnant. Requiring this type of program in schools may better inform students about the duties and responsibilities of parenting, relationship skills, and money management. Additionally, such a program may decrease the number of pregnancies and improve parenting relationship and financial skills of those who are parents and of those who are soon to become parents.

House Bill 983 requires a school district to incorporate a parenting and paternity awareness program, developed by the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General, into the high school health curriculum.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

House Bill 983 amends the Education Code to require the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General to develop a parenting and paternity awareness program that a school district is required to use in its high school health curriculum. The bill provides the skills which the program must address.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to develop the program not later than May 1, 2006 and requires the school district to use the program beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.