

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 287

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a pilot program to provide local oversight of child protective services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 40.072 to read as follows:

Sec. 40.072. CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LOCAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop and implement a pilot program to create a child protective services local oversight council in Bexar County.

(b) The department shall provide for the appointment of council members so that the council is an effective multidisciplinary team. The council must include:

(1) the director of the child protective services region that includes Bexar County;

(2) local judges;

(3) representatives of local law enforcement and human services agencies;

(4) community leaders; and

(5) child protective services division staff members.

(c) The council shall:

(1) oversee local child protective services matters, including:

(A) local fiscal and personnel decisions;

1 (B) case management services; and

2 (C) community relations development;

3 (2) recommend to the director of the child protective
4 services region policies designed to:

5 (A) address local concerns regarding child abuse
6 and neglect; and

7 (B) provide more efficient and effective service
8 delivery in Bexar County; and

9 (3) oversee the implementation of policies
10 recommended by the council under Subdivision (2).

11 (d) Not later than January 1, 2007, the department shall
12 submit to the legislature a report concerning the effectiveness of
13 the pilot program in reducing the incidence of child abuse and
14 neglect in Bexar County.

15 (e) This section expires and the council is abolished
16 September 1, 2007.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.