By: Dukes, Naishtat, et al. H.B. No. 1685

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an interagency coordinating council for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 5, Family Code, is amended by adding Chapter 266 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 266. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES

Sec. 266.001. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES. (a) The Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families is established to facilitate communication and collaboration concerning policies for the prevention of and early intervention in child abuse and neglect among state agencies whose programs and services promote and foster healthy families.

(b) The council consists of one representative from each of the following agencies appointed by the executive director or commissioner of each agency:

(1) the Department of Family and Protective Services;

(2) the Health and Human Services Commission;

(3) the Department of State Health Services;

(4) the Department of Aging and Disability Services;

(5) the Texas Youth Commission;

(6) the Texas Education Agency;

(7) the Texas Workforce Commission;

(8) the office of the attorney general;

(9) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission; and

(10) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

(c) A representative of an agency appointed to the council must have an overall understanding of the agency's mission and purpose and substantial experience and expertise relating to the administration of the agency's policies, programs, and activities.

(d) The representative from the Department of Family and Protective Services serves as the presiding officer of the council.

(e) The council shall meet at least quarterly and shall submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature the minutes of each council meeting.

(f) Not later than June 1, 2006, the council shall prepare and submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature an inventory of the child abuse and neglect prevention and early intervention policies, programs, and activities of each agency represented on the council.

(g) Not later than December 1, 2006, the council shall prepare and submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature a report containing the council's recommendations for improving the coordination and collaboration of child abuse and neglect prevention and early intervention programs and services among state agencies and the council's recommendation regarding whether to continue the

council.

Sec. 266.002. EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER. This chapter expires September 1, 2007.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2005.