

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;

1 (7) the Texas Workforce Commission;
2 (8) the office of the attorney general;
3 (9) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission; and
4 (10) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
5 Affairs.

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

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

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

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

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

1 council.

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

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

H.B. No. 1685

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1685 was passed by the House on April 19, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1685 was passed by the Senate on May 24, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor