

By: Dukes, et al.

H.B. No. 662

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the coordination and improvement of certain programs and services for the prevention of and early intervention in child abuse and neglect.

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

SECTION 1. Section 265.001(1), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Department" means the Department of Family and Protective ~~[and Regulatory]~~ Services.

SECTION 2. Chapter 265, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 265.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 265.005. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION SERVICES. (a) Not later than December 1, 2008, in consultation with the Interagency Coordinating Council for Building Healthy Families, the department shall develop a statewide, long-range strategic plan for child abuse and neglect prevention services. The plan must include:

(1) a strategy for the state and political subdivisions of the state to:

(A) reduce their need for services addressing child maltreatment; and

(B) transition to a system that promotes child abuse and neglect prevention services in order to use cost savings to increase prevention services funding in the future; and

1 intervention in child abuse and neglect.

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

- 5 (1) the Department of Family and Protective Services;
6 (2) the Health and Human Services Commission;
7 (3) the Department of State Health Services;
8 (4) the Department of Aging and Disability Services;
9 (5) the Texas Youth Commission;
10 (6) the Texas Education Agency;
11 (7) the Texas Workforce Commission;
12 (8) the office of the attorney general;
13 (9) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission; ~~and~~
14 (10) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
15 Affairs; and
16 (11) the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative
17 Services.

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

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

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

(f) The council shall evaluate:

(1) the potential for streamlined funding mechanisms for programs and services for the prevention of and early intervention in child abuse and neglect;

(2) the effectiveness and cost efficiency of state-funded programs and services for the prevention of and early intervention in child abuse and neglect;

(3) the effectiveness of state-funded child maltreatment prevention programs and services in achieving their intended outcomes and methods for transitioning those programs and services to an increased reliance on evidence-based practices;

(4) methods for the ongoing identification of additional opportunities for comprehensive improvements to the delivery of services for the prevention of and early intervention in child abuse and neglect; and

(5) the need for increased state funding for programs and services for the prevention of and early intervention in child abuse and neglect in order to ensure a sustained, long-term, cost-effective investment in families in this state ~~[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, 2008 ~~[2006]~~, the council shall prepare and submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature a report

1 containing the council's recommendations for improving the
2 coordination and collaboration of child abuse and neglect
3 prevention and early intervention programs and services among state
4 agencies. The council shall include in the report:

5 (1) the status of the council's findings based on the
6 council's evaluation under Subsections (f)(1), (4), and (5);

7 (2) details regarding the strategic plan for child
8 abuse and neglect prevention services developed by the Department
9 of Family and Protective Services in consultation with the council
10 under Section 265.005;

11 (3) the council's recommendations regarding
12 implementation of the strategic plan, including a detailed
13 explanation of the resources, the funds, and any interagency or
14 intergovernmental agreements necessary to accomplish the plan;
15 and

16 (4) the council's recommendation regarding whether to
17 continue the council.

18 (h) Not later than December 1, 2009, the council shall
19 prepare and submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
20 house of representatives, and the legislature a report containing
21 the status of the council's findings based on the council's
22 evaluation under Subsections (f)(2) and (3).

23 Sec. 267.002 [~~266.002~~]. EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER. This
24 chapter expires January [~~September~~] 1, 2010 [~~2007~~].

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.