

By: Turner

H.B. No. 2776

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the health and human services
accountability legislative oversight committee.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter Q to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Q. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ACCOUNTABILITY

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Sec. 531.651. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "committee"
means the health and human services accountability legislative
oversight committee.

Sec. 531.652. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE; PRESIDING OFFICER.

(a) The committee is composed of six appointed members as follows:

(1) two members of the senate, appointed by the
lieutenant governor;

(2) two members of the house of representatives,
appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(3) two members of the public, appointed by the
governor.

(b) The executive commissioner serves as an ex officio
member of the committee.

(c) An appointed member of the committee serves at the
pleasure of the appointing official.

(d) Each year, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of

1 the house of representatives shall alternate designating a
2 presiding officer from among their respective appointments.

3 Sec. 531.653. COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The
4 committee shall:

5 (1) monitor, audit, assess, and make recommendations
6 to the commission regarding the policies, rules, duties, functions,
7 programs, including the implementation and operation of programs,
8 and activities of the commission and the health and human services
9 agencies;

10 (2) research, take testimony, and prepare reports on
11 issues as requested by the governor, lieutenant governor, or
12 speaker of the house of representatives;

13 (3) review recommendations for legislation proposed
14 by the commission or the health and human services agencies; and

15 (4) monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the
16 health and human services system of this state.

17 (b) The committee may request reports and other information
18 from the commission, the health and human services agencies, and
19 the attorney general relating to health and human services in this
20 state and other appropriate issues.

21 Sec. 531.654. MEETINGS. The committee shall meet at the
22 call of the presiding officer.

23 Sec. 531.655. SUPPORT STAFF. The committee shall use staff
24 of the senate, the house of representatives, and the Texas
25 Legislative Council to assist the committee in performing the
26 committee's duties under this subchapter.

27 Sec. 531.656. APPLICABILITY OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW. Chapter

1 551 applies to the committee.

2 Sec. 531.657. REPORT. Not later than November 1 of each
3 even-numbered year, the committee shall submit a report to the
4 governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
5 representatives. The report must:

6 (1) identify significant issues within the health and
7 human services delivery system and provide recommendations for
8 action with respect to those issues;

9 (2) include an analysis of the effectiveness and
10 efficiency of the delivery of health and human services in this
11 state and provide recommendations for any necessary research; and

12 (3) include any recommendations for legislative
13 action.

14 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2007, the lieutenant
15 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
16 governor shall make the appointments required under Section
17 531.652, Government Code, as added by this Act. The speaker of the
18 house of representatives shall make the initial designation of the
19 presiding officer under Section 531.652(d), Government Code, as
20 added by this Act.

21 SECTION 3. The health and human services accountability
22 legislative oversight committee shall submit the initial report
23 required under Section 531.657, Government Code, as added by this
24 Act, not later than November 1, 2008.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.