

By: West, Royce, Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1410

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the management of child protective services  
3 caseworkers.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 531.048, Government Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

7 (d-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), the Department of  
8 Family and Protective Services shall ensure that the average  
9 caseload for the following categories of department caseworkers  
10 does not exceed the number specified by this subsection:

11 (1) for case management caseworkers and investigative  
12 caseworkers in the child protective services division providing  
13 services through conservatorship programs, an average of 24 cases  
14 at any time; and

15 (2) for case management caseworkers in the child  
16 protective services division providing services through foster and  
17 adoption programs and family-based safety services programs, an  
18 average equal to 80 percent of the average caseload that existed on  
19 January 1, 2007, for those caseworkers.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,  
21 is amended by adding Section 40.0325 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 40.0325. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR CASEWORKERS. (a)  
23 The department may not employ a person as a caseworker unless the  
24 person holds a bachelor's degree or advanced degree in at least one

1 of the following academic areas:

2 (1) social work;

3 (2) counseling;

4 (3) early childhood education;

5 (4) psychology;

6 (5) criminal justice; or

7 (6) elementary or secondary education.

8 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the department may  
9 employ a person as a caseworker who does not hold a degree required  
10 by Subsection (a) if the person has other exceptional education or  
11 experience that the department determines qualifies the person to  
12 perform the functions of a caseworker.

13 SECTION 3. Section 40.0325, Human Resources Code, as added  
14 by this Act, applies only to a caseworker hired by the Department of  
15 Family and Protective Services on or after the effective date of  
16 this Act. A caseworker hired before the effective date of this Act  
17 is not required to possess the degree required by Section 40.0325,  
18 Human Resources Code, as added by this Act, as long as the person  
19 remains employed by the Department of Family and Protective  
20 Services as a caseworker.

21 SECTION 4. The Department of Family and Protective Services  
22 shall increase and maintain the salary for case management and  
23 investigative caseworkers and supervisors in the child protective  
24 services division providing services through conservatorship  
25 programs, foster and adoption programs, and family-based safety  
26 services programs so that the salary for each employee exceeds 200  
27 percent of the federal poverty level.

1 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.