

By: Parker, Hughes, Rose, Legler, Lucio III

H.B. No. 2225

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2225:

By: Rose

C.S.H.B. No. 2225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to creating a committee to review the process for finding  
3 permanent placements for children in the conservatorship of the  
4 state.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) The Department of Family and Protective  
7 Services, in conjunction with the adoption review committee  
8 described by Subsection (b) of this section, shall conduct an  
9 extensive review of the foster care system to:

10 (1) identify obstacles that impede the department's  
11 ability to find a permanent placement for foster children,  
12 including placement by adoption; and

13 (2) develop ways to improve the foster care system by:

14 (A) reducing the time a child is in the  
15 conservatorship of the department before being permanently placed;

16 (B) reducing the number of children in the  
17 conservatorship of the department who are placed outside of their  
18 home county; and

19 (C) enhancing the procedures for adopting foster  
20 children.

21 (b) The adoption review committee is composed of the  
22 following nine members:

23 (1) six members appointed by the executive  
24 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as

1 follows:

2 (A) an employee of the Department of Family and  
3 Protective Services;

4 (B) a representative from a licensed  
5 child-placing agency that provides adoption services;

6 (C) an adoption advocate;

7 (D) a foster care advocate;

8 (E) a representative from the Council on  
9 Adoptable Children of Texas; and

10 (F) an attorney with expertise in handling  
11 adoptions; and

12 (2) three members who have expertise in or a  
13 demonstrated commitment to adoption issues, one of whom is  
14 appointed by the governor, one of whom is appointed by the  
15 lieutenant governor, and one of whom is appointed by the speaker of  
16 the house of representatives.

17 (c) Not later than December 1, 2010, the Department of  
18 Family and Protective Services shall submit a written report of the  
19 results of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this  
20 section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of  
21 the house of representatives, the House Committee on Human  
22 Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.  
23 The report must include:

24 (1) a summary of the findings of the review conducted  
25 under Subsection (a) of this section;

26 (2) a summary of the obstacles identified in the  
27 review that impede the department's ability to find permanent

1 placements for foster children;

2           (3) recommendations of actions the department should  
3 take to eliminate the obstacles described by Subdivision (2) of  
4 this subsection; and

5           (4) any legislative recommendations that would  
6 improve the foster care system.

7           SECTION 2. The adoption review committee is abolished and  
8 this Act expires September 1, 2011.

9           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.