

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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 foster care 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 and

17 (B) enhancing the procedures for adopting foster
18 children.

19 (b) The foster care review committee is composed of the
20 following six members:

21 (1) two members appointed by the governor;

22 (2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

23 and

24 (3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house

1 of representatives.

2 (c) A member of the legislature may not serve on the foster
3 care review committee.

4 (d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the Department of
5 Family and Protective Services shall submit a written report of the
6 results of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this
7 section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
8 the house of representatives, the House Committee on Human
9 Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.
10 The report must include:

11 (1) a summary of the findings of the review conducted
12 under Subsection (a) of this section;

13 (2) a summary of the obstacles identified in the
14 review that impede the department's ability to find permanent
15 placements for foster children;

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

19 (4) any legislative recommendations that would
20 improve the foster care system.

21 SECTION 2. The foster care review committee is abolished
22 and this Act expires September 1, 2011.

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