

1-1 By: Parker, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.B. No. 2225
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2009;
1-3 May 4, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 11, 2009, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8,
1-6 Nays 0; May 11, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2225 By: Nelson

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to creating a committee to review the process for finding
1-11 permanent placements for children in the conservatorship of the
1-12 state.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. (a) The Department of Family and Protective
1-15 Services, in conjunction with the adoption review committee
1-16 described by Subsection (b) of this section, shall conduct an
1-17 extensive review of the foster care system to:

1-18 (1) identify obstacles that impede the department's
1-19 ability to find a permanent placement for foster children,
1-20 including placement by adoption; and

1-21 (2) develop ways to improve the foster care system by:

1-22 (A) reducing the time a child is in the
1-23 conservatorship of the department before being permanently placed;

1-24 (B) reducing the number of children in the
1-25 conservatorship of the department who are placed outside of their
1-26 home county; and

1-27 (C) enhancing the procedures for adopting foster
1-28 children.

1-29 (b) The adoption review committee is composed of the
1-30 following nine members:

1-31 (1) four members appointed by the executive
1-32 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as
1-33 follows:

1-34 (A) an employee of the Department of Family and
1-35 Protective Services;

1-36 (B) a representative from a licensed
1-37 child-placing agency that provides adoption services;

1-38 (C) a representative from the Council on
1-39 Adoptable Children of Texas; and

1-40 (D) an attorney with expertise in handling
1-41 adoptions; and

1-42 (2) five members appointed by the governor who have
1-43 expertise in or a demonstrated commitment to adoption issues.

1-44 (c) The adoption review committee shall meet at least
1-45 quarterly.

1-46 (d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the Department of
1-47 Family and Protective Services shall submit a written report of the
1-48 results of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this
1-49 section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
1-50 the house of representatives, the House Committee on Human
1-51 Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.
1-52 The report must include:

1-53 (1) a summary of the findings of the review conducted
1-54 under Subsection (a) of this section;

1-55 (2) a summary of the obstacles identified in the
1-56 review that impede the department's ability to find permanent
1-57 placements for foster children;

1-58 (3) recommendations of actions the department should
1-59 take to eliminate the obstacles described by Subdivision (2) of
1-60 this subsection; and

1-61 (4) any legislative recommendations that would
1-62 improve the foster care system.

1-63 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2009, the executive

2-1 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the
2-2 governor shall appoint the members of the adoption review committee
2-3 and the adoption review committee shall begin performing its duties
2-4 as provided by this Act.

2-5 SECTION 3. The adoption review committee is abolished and
2-6 this Act expires September 1, 2011.

2-7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-11 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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