

By: Rose

H.B. No. 4188

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to child protective services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 261.103, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The department or other entity receiving a report of abuse or neglect shall maintain an audio recording of each report made over the telephone.

SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Family and Protective Services shall, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, the office of the attorney general, the Health and Human Services Commission, and the office of the governor, study the department's policies and procedures for investigating a report of abuse and neglect of children living in a large group environment. The department shall review:

(1) the effect of removing children from the home as opposed to removing the alleged perpetrator;

(2) the staffing requirements for removing a large number of children at one time, including the needs for child protective services caseworkers, law enforcement officers, and substitute care providers; and

(3) the policies relating to interagency cooperation that apply to investigations of abuse and neglect.

(b) The Department of Family and Protective Services shall

1 report the results of the study to the lieutenant governor, the
2 speaker of the house of representatives, and the standing committee
3 of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over
4 child abuse and neglect issues. The report must include any
5 recommendations for legislation.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.