

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 1129

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to membership on and reporting requirements of the child fatality review team committee.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 264.502(b) and (c), Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The members of the committee who serve under Subsections (a)(1) through (3) shall select the following additional committee members:

(1) a criminal prosecutor involved in prosecuting crimes against children;

(2) a sheriff;

(3) a justice of the peace;

(4) a medical examiner;

(5) a police chief;

(6) a pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect;

(7) a child educator;

(8) a child mental health provider;

(9) a public health professional;

(10) a child protective services specialist;

(11) a sudden infant death syndrome family service provider;

(12) a neonatologist;

- 1 (13) a child advocate;
- 2 (14) a chief juvenile probation officer;
- 3 (15) a child abuse prevention specialist;
- 4 (16) a representative of the Department of Public
5 Safety; ~~and~~
- 6 (17) a representative of the Texas Department of
7 Transportation;
- 8 (18) a representative of emergency medical service
9 providers; and
- 10 (19) a provider of services to victims of family
11 violence.

12 (c) Members of the committee selected under Subsection (b)
13 serve three-year terms with the terms of ~~[five or]~~ six or seven
14 members, as appropriate, expiring February 1 each year.

15 SECTION 2. Section 264.503(f), Family Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (f) Not later than April 1 of each year, the ~~[The]~~
18 committee shall issue a report containing aggregate data collected
19 by review teams regarding ~~[for]~~ each preventable child death~~[-. The~~
20 ~~report must include findings related to the child's death],~~
21 recommendations on how to prevent similar deaths, and details
22 surrounding the department's involvement with the child prior to
23 the child's death. The ~~[Not later than April 1 of each year, the]~~
24 committee shall ~~[publish a compilation of the reports published~~
25 ~~under this subsection during the year,]~~ submit a copy of the report
26 ~~[compilation]~~ to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the
27 house of representatives, and department, and make the report

1 ~~[compilation]~~ available to the public. Not later than October 1 of
2 each year, the department shall submit a written response on the
3 report ~~[compilation]~~ from the previous year to the committee,
4 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
5 representatives describing which of the committee's
6 recommendations regarding the operation of the child protective
7 services system the department will implement and the methods of
8 implementation.

9 SECTION 3. The members of the child fatality review team
10 committee under Section 264.502(a), Family Code, responsible for
11 selecting the additional members of the committee required by
12 Section 264.502(b), Family Code, as amended by this Act, shall make
13 those appointments not later than November 1, 2009.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.