

By: Uresti, Shapiro

S.B. No. 1734

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Department of Family and Protective Services caseworker replacement program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 40.0324, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 40.0324. CASEWORKER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Caseworker" means a full-time department employee who serves as a child protective services specialist.

(2) "Training academy" means an entity established by the department to train caseworkers.

(a-1) The ~~[To the extent that funding is available, the]~~ department shall develop a program to provide for the timely replacement of caseworkers with trainees hired in anticipation of vacancies.

(b) In developing the program, the department shall:

(1) remove the limit on the number of authorized positions for a category of caseworker in a region of the state in which the turnover rate for that category exceeds 20 percent;

(2) increase the number of trainee positions for a category of caseworker described by Subdivision (1) in the training academy in the region to a total that is 140 percent of the number of trainee positions that existed immediately before September 1,

1 2009;

2 (3) maintain the number of trainers and other  
3 necessary positions in the training academy in the region at the  
4 level necessary to accomplish the purposes of Subdivision (2); and

5 (4) provide available funds as necessary to accomplish  
6 the purposes of this subsection [~~consider the turnover rate for~~  
7 ~~caseworkers by region~~].

8 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2010, the  
9 Department of Family and Protective Services shall submit a report  
10 to the legislature regarding the effect of Section 40.0324, Human  
11 Resources Code, as amended by this Act, on the retention of  
12 caseworkers in the state.

13 (b) The report under Subsection (a) of this section must  
14 include an assessment of the continuing need for the caseworker  
15 replacement program under Section 40.0324, Human Resources Code, as  
16 amended by this Act, and a recommendation on whether the program  
17 should be continued.

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