

House Bill 2225
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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

- (1) identify obstacles that impede the department's ability to find a permanent placement for foster children, including placement by adoption; and
- (2) develop ways to improve the foster care system by:
 - (A) reducing the time a child is in the conservatorship of the department before being permanently placed;
 - (B) reducing the number of children in the conservatorship of the department who are placed outside of their home county; and
 - (C) enhancing the procedures for adopting foster children.
- (b) The adoption review committee is composed of the following nine members:
 - (1) four members appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as follows:
 - (A) an employee of the Department of Family and Protective Services;
 - (B) a representative from a licensed child-placing agency that provides adoption services;
 - (C) a representative from the Council on Adoptable Children of Texas; and
 - (D) an attorney with expertise in handling adoptions; and

SENATE VERSION

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

- (1) identify obstacles that impede the department's ability to find a permanent placement for foster children, including placement by adoption; and
- (2) develop ways to improve the foster care system by:
 - (A) reducing the time a child is in the conservatorship of the department before being permanently placed;
 - (B) reducing the number of children in the conservatorship of the department who are placed outside of their home county; and
 - (C) enhancing the procedures for adopting foster children.
- (b) The adoption review committee is composed of the following nine members:
 - (1) four members appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as follows:
 - (A) an employee of the Department of Family and Protective Services;
 - (B) a representative from a licensed child-placing agency that provides adoption services;
 - (C) a representative from the Council on Adoptable Children of Texas; and
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(2) five members who have expertise in or a demonstrated commitment to adoption issues, three of whom are appointed by the governor, one of whom is appointed by the lieutenant governor, and one of whom is appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) The adoption review committee shall meet at least quarterly.

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

- (1) a summary of the findings of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this section;
- (2) a summary of the obstacles identified in the review that impede the department's ability to find permanent placements for foster children;
- (3) recommendations of actions the department should take to eliminate the obstacles described by Subdivision (2) of this subsection; and
- (4) any legislative recommendations that would improve the foster care system.

SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2009, the

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

(c) The adoption review committee shall meet at least quarterly.

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

- (1) a summary of the findings of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this section;
- (2) a summary of the obstacles identified in the review that impede the department's ability to find permanent placements for foster children;
- (3) recommendations of actions the department should take to eliminate the obstacles described by Subdivision (2) of this subsection; and
- (4) any legislative recommendations that would improve the foster care system.

Same as House version.

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

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

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

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Same as House version.

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