

By: West

S.B. No. 501

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an interagency council for addressing disproportionality.

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

SECTION 1. Title 1, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONALITY

Sec. 2.001. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONALITY. The Interagency Council for Addressing Disproportionality is established to:

(1) examine the level of disproportionate involvement of children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group at each stage in the juvenile justice, child welfare, education, and mental health systems, including:

(A) the points of entry;

(B) each point at which a treatment decision is made; and

(C) the outcomes for the children exiting the systems; and

(2) make recommendations to reduce the involvement of the children in the systems.

Sec. 2.002. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL; MEETINGS. (a) The council consists of:

(1) one representative from each of the following

1 agencies appointed by the executive director or commissioner of  
2 each agency:

3 (A) the Texas Education Agency;

4 (B) the Center for Elimination of  
5 Disproportionality and Disparities within the Health and Human  
6 Services Commission;

7 (C) the Department of Assistive and  
8 Rehabilitative Services;

9 (D) the Department of Aging and Disability  
10 Services;

11 (E) the Department of State Health Services;

12 (F) the Department of Family and Protective  
13 Services;

14 (G) the Texas Youth Commission; and

15 (H) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission; and

16 (2) one representative of the office of the attorney  
17 general appointed by the attorney general.

18 (b) A representative of an agency appointed to the council  
19 must have an overall understanding of the agency's mission and  
20 purpose and substantial experience and expertise relating to the  
21 administration of the agency's policies, programs, and activities.

22 (c) The representative from the Center for Elimination of  
23 Disproportionality and Disparities within the Health and Human  
24 Services Commission serves as the presiding officer of the council.

25 (d) The council shall meet at least quarterly.

26 Sec. 2.003. COUNCIL DUTIES. The council's duties include:

27 (1) reviewing the delivery of public and private child

1 welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and education services to  
2 evaluate the disproportionate rates of use of the services by  
3 children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group;

4 (2) reviewing federal, state, and local funds  
5 appropriated to address the disproportionate use of children's  
6 services by children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority  
7 group;

8 (3) reviewing current best practice standards  
9 addressing the disproportionate use of children's services by  
10 children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group;

11 (4) examining the qualifications and training of  
12 children's service providers and making recommendations for  
13 training curriculum and other necessary changes;

14 (5) recommending methods to improve use of available  
15 public and private funds to address the disproportionate use of  
16 children's services by children who are members of a racial or  
17 ethnic minority group;

18 (6) providing information concerning identified unmet  
19 children's service needs and providing recommendations concerning  
20 the development of resources to meet the identified needs;

21 (7) examining outcomes for children who are members of  
22 a racial or ethnic minority group who have exited or will exit the  
23 public and private child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health,  
24 and education systems;

25 (8) recommending administrative and legislative  
26 actions related to appropriate programs and services to reduce and  
27 eliminate disparities in the systems and improve the long-term

1 outcomes for children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority  
2 group who are served by the systems; and

3 (9) preparing a report consisting of the council's  
4 findings and recommendations, and the presentation of an  
5 implementation plan to address disproportionate representation of  
6 children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group in the  
7 use of children's services.

8 Sec. 2.004. COUNCIL REPORT. Not later than December 1,  
9 2012, the council shall prepare and submit to the lieutenant  
10 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
11 legislature a report containing the council's findings and  
12 recommendations for addressing the disproportionate representation  
13 of children who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group in  
14 the use of children's services and the council's recommendation as  
15 to whether to continue the council.

16 Sec. 2.005. EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER. This chapter expires  
17 December 1, 2013.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.