

1-1 By: Harris, Van de Putte S.B. No. 717  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 15, 2011; February 23, 2011,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human  
1-4 Services; April 7, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 7, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the purpose and duties of the Council on Children and  
1-9 Families.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 531.802, Government  
1-12 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-13 (a) The Council on Children and Families is established to:

1-14 (1) coordinate the state's health, education, and  
1-15 human services systems to ensure that children and families have  
1-16 access to needed services;

1-17 (2) improve coordination and efficiency in state  
1-18 agencies, advisory councils on issues affecting children, and local  
1-19 levels of service;

1-20 (3) prioritize and mobilize resources for children;

1-21 [~~and~~]

1-22 (4) facilitate an integrated approach to providing  
1-23 services for children and youth; and

1-24 (5) promote the sharing of information regarding  
1-25 children and their families among state agencies.

1-26 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 531.803, Government  
1-27 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-28 (a) The council shall:

1-29 (1) analyze the biennial legislative appropriations  
1-30 requests of members of the council for services provided to  
1-31 children and their families and identify appropriations that,  
1-32 through the coordination of members of the council, could be  
1-33 modified in the next legislative appropriation request to eliminate  
1-34 waste or increase available services and, not later than May 1 of  
1-35 each even-numbered year, prepare a report recommending those  
1-36 modifications for consideration during the development of the next  
1-37 biennial legislative appropriations request;

1-38 (2) investigate opportunities to increase flexible  
1-39 funding for health, education, and human services provided to  
1-40 children and their families;

1-41 (3) identify methods to remove barriers to local  
1-42 coordination of health, education, and human services provided to  
1-43 children and their families;

1-44 (4) identify methods to ensure that children and youth  
1-45 receive appropriate assessment, diagnoses, and intervention  
1-46 services;

1-47 (5) develop methods to prevent unnecessary parental  
1-48 relinquishment of custody of children;

1-49 (6) prioritize assisting children in family settings  
1-50 rather than institutional settings; [~~and~~]

1-51 (7) make recommendations about family involvement in  
1-52 the provision and planning of health, education, and human services  
1-53 for a child, including family partner and liaison models; and

1-54 (8) identify technological methods to ensure the  
1-55 efficient and timely transfer of information among state agencies  
1-56 providing health, education, and human services to children and  
1-57 their families.

1-58 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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