

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 3686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duties of the Council on Children and Families.

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

SECTION 1. Section 531.803(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall:

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

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

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

(4) identify methods to ensure that children and youth receive appropriate assessment, diagnoses, and intervention services;

1           (5) develop methods to prevent unnecessary parental  
2 relinquishment of custody of children;

3           (6) prioritize assisting children in family settings  
4 rather than institutional settings;

5           (7) make recommendations about family involvement in  
6 the provision and planning of health, education, and human services  
7 for a child, including family partner and liaison models; ~~and~~

8           (8) identify technological methods to ensure the  
9 efficient and timely transfer of information among state agencies  
10 providing health, education, and human services to children and  
11 their families; and

12           (9) coordinate interagency grant or resource  
13 development efforts to improve efficiencies and outcomes for  
14 children and families, including possible dedication of staff to:

15                   (A) assist individual health, education, human  
16 services, juvenile justice, and workforce agencies to write or  
17 develop interagency grants and coordinate resources;

18                   (B) coordinate or lead interagency grant or  
19 resource development efforts; and

20                   (C) assist the council to facilitate interagency  
21 resource and policy coordination.

22           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.