

By: Nelson  
(Laubenberg)

S.B. No. 66

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the child fatality review team committee.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 264.502, Family Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The members of the committee who serve under Subsections (a)(1) through (3) shall select the following additional committee members:

(1) a criminal prosecutor involved in prosecuting crimes against children;

(2) a sheriff;

(3) a justice of the peace;

(4) a medical examiner;

(5) a police chief;

(6) a pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and treating child abuse and neglect;

(7) a child educator;

(8) a child mental health provider;

(9) a public health professional;

(10) a child protective services specialist;

(11) a sudden infant death syndrome family service provider;

(12) a neonatologist;

(13) a child advocate;

- 1 (14) a chief juvenile probation officer;
- 2 (15) a child abuse prevention specialist;
- 3 (16) a representative of the Department of Public
- 4 Safety; ~~and~~
- 5 (17) a representative of the Texas Department of
- 6 Transportation;
- 7 (18) an emergency medical services provider; and
- 8 (19) a provider of services to, or an advocate for,
- 9 victims of family violence.

10 (c) Members of the committee selected under Subsection (b)

11 serve three-year terms with the terms of ~~[five or]~~ six or seven

12 members, as appropriate, expiring February 1 each year.

13 SECTION 2. Subsection (f), Section 264.503, Family Code, is

14 amended to read as follows:

15 (f) ~~[The committee shall issue a report for each preventable~~

16 ~~child death. The report must include findings related to the~~

17 ~~child's death, recommendations on how to prevent similar deaths,~~

18 ~~and details surrounding the department's involvement with the child~~

19 ~~prior to the child's death.]~~ Not later than April 1 of each

20 even-numbered year, the committee shall publish a report that

21 contains aggregate child fatality data collected by local child

22 fatality review teams, recommendations to prevent child fatalities

23 and injuries, and recommendations to the department on child

24 protective services operations based on input from the child safety

25 review subcommittee. The committee shall ~~[compilation of the~~

26 ~~reports published under this subsection during the year,]~~ submit a

27 copy of the report ~~[compilation]~~ to the governor, lieutenant

1 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, Department of  
2 State Health Services, and department~~[,]~~ and make the report  
3 ~~[compilation]~~ available to the public. Not later than October 1 of  
4 each even-numbered year, the department shall submit a written  
5 response to ~~[on]~~ the committee's recommendations ~~[compilation from~~  
6 ~~the previous year]~~ to the committee, governor, lieutenant governor,  
7 ~~[and]~~ speaker of the house of representatives, and Department of  
8 State Health Services describing which of the committee's  
9 recommendations regarding the operation of the child protective  
10 services system the department will implement and the methods of  
11 implementation.

12 SECTION 3. The members of the child fatality review team  
13 committee under Subsection (a), Section 264.502, Family Code,  
14 responsible for selecting the additional members of the committee  
15 required by Subsection (b), Section 264.502, Family Code, as  
16 amended by this Act, shall make those appointments not later than  
17 November 1, 2013.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.