

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 1788

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the duties of the Council on Children and Families and
3 creating a committee to advise the council on child abuse
4 prevention issues.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 531.802(a), Government Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) The Council on Children and Families is established to:

9 (1) coordinate the state's health, education, and
10 human services systems to ensure that children and families have
11 access to needed services;

12 (2) improve coordination and efficiency in state
13 agencies, advisory councils on issues affecting children, and local
14 levels of service;

15 (3) prioritize and mobilize resources for children;

16 (4) facilitate an integrated approach to providing
17 services for children and youth; ~~and~~

18 (5) promote the sharing of information regarding
19 children and their families among state agencies; and

20 (6) coordinate and enhance child abuse prevention
21 services.

22 SECTION 2. Section 531.803(a), Government Code, is amended
23 to read as follows:

24 (a) The council shall:

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

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

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

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

19 (5) develop methods to prevent unnecessary parental
20 relinquishment of custody of children;

21 (6) prioritize assisting children in family settings
22 rather than institutional settings;

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

26 (8) identify technological methods to ensure the
27 efficient and timely transfer of information among state agencies

1 providing health, education, and human services to children and
2 their families; and

3 (9) identify and develop methods and strategies to
4 coordinate and enhance child abuse prevention services for families
5 with children.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter T, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 531.8031 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.8031. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The council shall
9 establish the prevention committee to advise the council regarding
10 the coordination and enhancement of child abuse prevention
11 services.

12 (b) The prevention committee is composed of five public
13 members appointed by the executive commissioner who are actively
14 involved in the fields of child welfare and child abuse and neglect
15 prevention.

16 (c) The prevention committee shall select one of its members
17 to serve as presiding officer of the committee for a term of one
18 year.

19 (d) The prevention committee shall hold meetings at the call
20 of the presiding officer.

21 (e) The prevention committee shall:

22 (1) advise the council on the use of social impact
23 bonds to finance child abuse prevention programs;

24 (2) use maps and other data compiled by the commission
25 and counties to compare the reports of child abuse in the state with
26 the child abuse prevention programs provided in the state; and

27 (3) assist the council in:

1 (A) ensuring that money appropriated by the
2 legislature for child abuse prevention programs is used for that
3 purpose;

4 (B) facilitating the engagement of the private
5 and philanthropic sectors in child abuse prevention across the
6 state; and

7 (C) maximizing the funding leverage of federal,
8 state, local, and private money for child abuse prevention
9 programs.

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