

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 190

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the effective management of caseloads in the investigation of child abuse or neglect reports by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 261.3015, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-1), (c-2), and (c-3) to read as follows:

(c-1) The executive commissioner shall by rule establish, and the department shall implement, a formal review process under which any reported case that remains open 60 days following a report of abuse or neglect must be reviewed by a department supervisor for administrative closure under Subsection (c). A reported case described by this subsection qualifies for administrative closure if:

(1) there is no prior report of abuse or neglect of the child who is the subject of the report;

(2) no additional report of abuse or neglect of the child has been received following the original report; and

(3) after contacting a professional or other credible source, the supervisor determines that the child's safety can be assured without further investigation, response, services, or assistance.

(c-2) A reported case that is reviewed under Subsection (c-1) and does not qualify for administrative closure may be

1 reassigned to a different department caseworker if reassignment
2 would allow the department to make the most effective use of
3 resources to investigate and respond to reported cases of abuse or
4 neglect.

5 (c-3) The department shall develop a training program for
6 department supervisors and department caseworkers who investigate
7 reports of abuse or neglect. The training program must include
8 information on:

9 (1) effective utilization of the alternative response
10 system; and

11 (2) the process of, and requirements for,
12 administrative closure.

13 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2017, the executive
14 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
15 adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 261.3015, Family
16 Code, as amended by this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.