

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2737
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Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

It has been reported that, because persons elected to judicial office are not required to have previous training on certain sensitive issues such as child abuse or trauma or training relating to contributing environmental factors in cases involving children, there may be disparities in individual judges' handling of child protective services and juvenile justice cases. C.S.H.B. 2737 seeks to remedy this situation by requiring the Texas Supreme Court annually to provide guidance and recommended best practices to judges who preside over such cases.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Supreme Court in SECTION 1 of this bill.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2737 amends the Government Code to require the Texas Supreme Court annually to provide guidance to judges who preside over child protective services cases or juvenile cases to establish greater uniformity across the state for issues related to the following, as appropriate:

- placement of children with severe mental health issues;
- changes in placement;
- final termination of parental rights;
- the release of children detained in juvenile detention facilities;
- certification of juveniles to stand trial as adults; and
- commitment of children to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

The bill requires the court to adopt the rules necessary to accomplish the bill's purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2019.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 2737 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following summarizes the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

The substitute makes certain revisions to the description of the issues to be covered by the required supreme court guidance, including a specification that issues related to children with severe mental health issues concern the placement of such children.