

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2983  
By: Hull  
Human Services  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

State law requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide a medical examination for certain children entering into, and remaining in, DFPS conservatorship for more than three business days. However, in implementing this requirement, DFPS created a manual and implementation guide that requires all children removed from their home and placed into DFPS conservatorship to undergo an examination. This is problematic in many ways as the extra examinations are an unnecessary taxpayer expense and can be traumatizing to the child. H.B. 2983 seeks to clarify the law with respect to these examinations and provide for legislative oversight.

### **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 this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 2983 amends the Family Code to limit the categories of children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to whom DFPS may provide its initial three-day medical examination to a child who:

- is removed from their home as the result of sexual abuse, physical abuse, or an obvious physical injury to the child; or
- has a chronic medical condition, a medically complex condition, or a diagnosed mental illness.

The bill requires DFPS to submit a report to the applicable standing legislative committees evaluating the statewide implementation of the three-day examination requirement not later than December 31, 2022. The report must include, for each region of the state, the level of compliance with the examination requirements, the number of medical examinations conducted, and the reason for each examination.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2021.