

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 2261  
By: Blanco  
Human Services  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) requires new hires to complete the entire comprehensive adult protective services training program before they can assist on current cases in the field. Currently, the training program is approximately four months long, which means new caseworkers cannot be assigned cases or work in the field for months after coming onboard at DFPS. This denies new caseworkers practical, hands-on experience during the training period. S.B. 2261 seeks to allow trainees to practice the competencies taught in the training program in the field, under supervision, with actual clients.

### **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**

S.B. 2261 amends the Human Resources Code to revise the requirement for a newly hired or assigned Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) employee to complete the new-employee adult protective services training program developed and implemented by DFPS before initiating an investigation of a report of alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person or person with a disability or providing protective services to such a person by specifying that the training program must be completed successfully. However, the bill establishes an exception to that requirement for a newly hired or assigned employee who is in the process of receiving the required training and initiates the investigation or provides protective services under the direct supervision of the person who is providing the training. The bill applies only to an employee who is enrolled in the training program on or after the bill's effective date.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2023.