

By: Noble

H. B. No. 1502

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of the child and adult protective
3 investigations advisory committee in the Department of Family and
4 Protective Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 40.031 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 40.031. CHILD AND ADULT PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS

9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The commissioner shall establish an

10 advisory committee on child and adult protective investigations to

11 improve the accuracy and standardization of the application of

12 investigative legal requirements and department investigative

13 policies and procedures during child or adult abuse, neglect, and

14 exploitation investigations. The advisory committee shall advise

15 the department on:

24 (4) developing effective training for all

1 investigative employees;

2 (5) increasing compliance with investigation
3 procedures and processes;

4 (6) developing a data-informed model for conducting
5 investigations; and

6 (7) providing a forum for public input on problems or
7 concerns related to investigations.

8 (b) The advisory committee shall:

9 (1) make recommendations for:

10 (A) conducting investigations;

11 (B) overseeing compliance with investigative
12 requirements under state and federal law;

13 (C) developing policies and procedures to
14 protect the due process rights of individuals subject to:

15 (i) adult abuse or neglect investigations;

16 and

17 (ii) child abuse or neglect investigations;

18 and

19 (D) consistently executing policies and
20 procedures across all department jurisdictions regardless of the
21 race, gender, age, and socioeconomic status of the subject of an
22 investigation;

23 (2) identify any challenges or barriers to:

24 (A) the standardization of investigative
25 practices and procedures; and

26 (B) the application and implementation in the
27 field of legal requirements and department investigative policies

1 and procedures in child or adult abuse and neglect investigations;
2 (3) make recommendations to address issues identified
3 under Subdivision (2), including any human resource accountability
4 measures to address those issues; and

5 (4) supervise any external organizations that
6 participate in the investigation processes and make
7 recommendations for legal procedures for the operations of those
8 organizations.

9 (c) The advisory committee is composed of the following 13
10 members:

18 (4) one member appointed by the commissioner:

(A) a rural region; and

27 (B) an urban region;

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14 (E) state or local law enforcement officer.

15 (d) In appointing the members of the advisory committee
16 under Subsection (c)(10), the commissioner may select only one
17 person from each group described by Subsection (c)(10)(A)-(E).

18 (e) An individual may not serve on the advisory committee as
19 a member appointed under Subsection (c)(1), (2), (3), (4), (8),
20 (9), or (10) if the individual is:

1 contract with the department or hold contracts with vendors of the
2 department, including vendors in community-based care.

3 (f) Members of the advisory committee shall recuse
4 themselves from the committee's deliberation regarding
5 recommendations that directly relate to a case that involves the
6 member.

7 (g) The chair of the advisory committee shall direct the
8 advisory committee and the department shall provide administrative
9 support and resources to the advisory committee as necessary for
10 the advisory committee to perform the advisory committee's duties
11 under this section.

12 (h) The advisory committee shall meet quarterly in Austin or
13 at another location determined by the chair. A meeting of the
14 advisory committee under this section is subject to Chapter 551,
15 Government Code. The advisory committee shall receive public
16 testimony at each public meeting. The department shall stream live
17 video and audio of each advisory committee meeting over the
18 Internet and make available on the department's Internet website
19 archived video and audio of each advisory committee meeting. The
20 department shall maintain the archived video and audio of the
21 meeting on the department's Internet website until the seventh
22 anniversary of the date of the meeting.

23 (i) Not later than August 31st of each year, the advisory
24 committee shall submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant
25 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, members of
26 the legislature, and the commissioner. The department shall
27 publish the report on the department's Internet website. The

1 report must include the following information for the state and for
2 each department region:

3 (1) the number of:

4 (A) phone calls made to the agency that resulted
5 in an investigation for child or adult abuse or neglect;

6 (B) completed investigations for child or adult
7 abuse or neglect;

8 (C) each type of case disposition;

9 (D) administrative closures;

10 (E) abbreviated investigations;

11 (F) children removed from the child's home;

12 (G) children placed in foster care;

13 (H) cases in which the child was not removed from
14 the child's home but the family received family-based safety
15 services or family preservation services;

16 (I) cases per investigator in unspecialized
17 investigative units; and

18 (J) cases per investigator in specialized
19 investigative units;

20 (2) the average employment rate for unspecialized
21 investigators and supervisors and specialized investigators and
22 supervisors;

23 (3) the average amount of time to complete
24 investigations for each level of investigation;

25 (4) the total number of administrative reviews of
26 investigation findings and the results of those investigations for
27 that year;

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1 (5) the number of complaints filed with the office of
2 consumer affairs of the department and the Office of Inspector
3 General;

4 (6) any identified challenges to:

5 (A) the standardization of an investigative
6 training program; and

7 (B) the application and implantation in the field
8 or of legal requirements and department investigative policies and
9 procedures in child or adult abuse and neglect investigations;

10 (7) the committee's recommendations for improving any
11 identified challenges under Subdivision (6), including any human
12 resource accountability measures to address those issues; and

13 (8) recommendations on human resource accountability
14 measures for individuals investigating or supervising the
15 investigation of cases of suspected child or adult abuse or
16 neglect.

17 (j) The advisory committee is abolished and this section
18 expires on September 1, 2029.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.