

- SUBJECT:** Expedited proceedings when a child is in immediate danger of harm.
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Goodman, Brady, H. Cuellar, De La Garza, Naishtat, Puente, Van de Putte
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Cook, Williamson
- WITNESSES:** For — Norma Willcockson; Richard Eigell; Patti Derr; Janice Sager; Sandra Martin; Jack Tucker, Texas Fathers Alliance
- Against — None
- On — Howard Baldwin, Department of Protective and Regulatory Services; Brent Sandbak, Texas Fathers
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2569 would entitle the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) to an expedited hearing in any proceeding in which a hearing is required, if PRS determined that a child should be removed from home because of an immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety. In an expedited hearing in which the court denied PRS' initial request for removal of the child, the agency would also be entitled to an expedited appeal. If a child was returned home after a removal in which the agency was entitled to an expedited hearing and the child was subject to subsequent allegations of abuse or neglect, PRS or any other interested party would be entitled to an expedited hearing and an expedited appeal.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 1995, and would apply to proceedings in which an investigation of the abuse of a child was pending on or after that date.
- NOTES:** The committee substitute added the provision that entitles PRS or any other interested party to an expedited hearing and appeal if a child is returned to the home and again becomes the subject to allegations of abuse.