

SUBJECT: Membership of the Board of Protective and Regulatory Services

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Uresti, Naishtat, Christian, McCall, Miller, Olivo, Villarreal, Wohlgemuth

0 nays

1 absent — Reyna

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 6 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Human Resources Code, ch. 40 governs the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS), child welfare and protective services. Sec. 40.021 sets forth the requirements for the DPRS board. It consists of six members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The governor is required to designate one member as the presiding officer of the board. Four members of the board must have a demonstrated interest in the services provided by DPRS, and two members must represent the public.

DIGEST: CSSB 593 would amend sec. 40.021 to recommend that one of the board members with a demonstrated interest in the services provided by the DPRS be a person who had been a child in the foster care system.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2003.

The bill would not affect the entitlement of a board member serving immediately before the effective date of CSSB 593 and would allow the board member to serve out the term to which that member was appointed. As the terms of the board members expired or as vacancies occurred, the governor

would be required to make appointments as soon as possible to achieve the provisions of the bill.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

Including one board member who had been a child in the Texas foster care system would enable the board to gain valuable insight into the needs of children under the protection of the state. It would not create a burden for the governor in finding an appropriate person to meet this qualification because Texas has a large population of people who have been in foster care. The bill as substituted would recommend, not require, this appointment, so it would not create an inflexible mandate.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The committee substitute differs from SB 593 as engrossed by recommending, not requiring, that one of the board members with a demonstrated interest in the services provided by the DPRS be a person who had been a child in the foster care system.