

SUBJECT: Requiring a posted list of child care facility employees

COMMITTEE: Human Services — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Hupp, Eissler, J. Davis, A. Allen, Gonzalez Toureilles, Naishtat, Reyna

0 nays

2 absent — Goodman, Paxton

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 21 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested calendar

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — Bill Pewitt, Texas Licensed Child Care Association

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sasha Rasco, Department of Family and Protective Services)

DIGEST: SB 565 would require all child care facilities to post a list of all current employees. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission would have to adopt rules regarding the size, wording, and placement of the sign.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Even though people working in child care facilities must undergo criminal background checks, posting a list of the employees would serve as a second set of information for parents to check. Parents could use the information to better know who has daily contact with their children. The posting could be located in an area accessible to parents but not easily seen by the general public if employee security was a concern.

OPPONENTS SAY: This mandate on child-care facilities would be duplicative of the background check already required. It could expose employees who were being stalked or the target of gossip in their communities. Parents need to know who has daily contact with their children, but the employees should

not be exposed to possible harm. The state-mandated background check already creates a safe environment.