

SUBJECT: Appointing juvenile detention facility superintendents in Wichita County

COMMITTEE: Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Dutton, Bolton, Farrar, Gonzalez Toureilles, Hernandez
0 nays
4 absent — Eiland, Farias, Strama, Vaught

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Human Resources Code, sec. 152.2492(b) requires the family court services department administrator to appoint the superintendent of each juvenile detention facility in Wichita County. The juvenile board is required to confirm the appointment, and a superintendent or an assistant may be suspended or removed at any time by the appointing authority.

DIGEST: HB 953 would amend Human Resources Code, sec. 152.2492(b) to require the chief juvenile probation officer to appoint the superintendent of each juvenile detention facility in Wichita County.

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, 2007.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 953 would transfer the appointment authority over juvenile detention facility superintendents from a defunct entity to the chief juvenile probation officer. In enacting SB 622 by Harris in 1995, the 74th Legislature eliminated Wichita County Family Court Services by repealing Human Resources Code, secs. 152.2493 through 152.2495. HB 953 simply would update the Human Resources Code to reflect this fact.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

During the 2005 regular session, an identical bill, HB 3543 by Farabee, passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar on May 13, 2005, but died in the Senate Jurisprudence Committee.