

- SUBJECT:** Interlocal agreements for juvenile justice case management system
- COMMITTEE:** Corrections — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — McReynolds, Madden, Dutton, Hodge, Marquez, S. Miller, Ortiz
0 nays
1 present, not voting — Sheffield
3 absent — England, Kolkhorst, Martinez
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Samuel Gunter, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; Justin Marlin, Texans Care for Children; Cindy Segovia, Bexar County Commissioners and Juvenile Probation); (*On committee substitute:*) Donald Lee, Texas Conference of Urban Counties

Against — None

On — Lisa Capers, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code, ch. 58 authorizes a statewide juvenile justice information system. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) can partner with local counties to participate and assist in the creation of a statewide system to:
- aid in processing the children’s cases;
 - facilitate the delivery of services to children in the juvenile justice system;
 - aid in the early identification of at-risk and delinquent children; and
 - facilitate cross-jurisdictional sharing of information.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1351 would authorize TJPC to adopt interlocal contracts with counties for the juvenile justice information system. The bill would authorize TJPC to operate the system and specify that was intended for statewide use.

TJPC would be authorized to use appropriated funds to implement the system and to pay costs incurred through the interlocal contracts, including license fees, maintenance and operations costs, administrative costs, and any other costs specified in an interlocal contract. TJPC would be authorized to provide training services to counties on the use and operation of the system.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 1351 would allow TJPC to continue the development of a juvenile justice information and case management system that has been in the works for the last couple of years. The bill would update the general authority that TJPC has to work on the system, so that the statute specifically would allow TJPC to enter into interlocal agreements and would allow it to participate in the operation of the system. The bill also would authorize certain uses of \$4.3 million appropriated in the House-passed version of the fiscal 2010-11 budget for the system and would authorize TJPC to provide training to the counties for the system. These changes would keep the project on track and moving forward.

The current system does not provide seamless sharing of juvenile-specific data among counties and state juvenile justice agencies. The system authorized by CSHB 1351 should be rolled out during fiscal 2010-11. It would be a comprehensive web-based system that would allow for common data collection, reporting, and management and the sharing of information. This, along with the increased data collection, would help state and local officials make well-informed decisions that use better resources to help juveniles.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The original bill would have required the TJPC to participate in the juvenile information system and would have required it to collect and maintain information, while the committee substitute left the current language that makes TJPC's participation permissive.

The companion bill, SB 58 by Zaffirini, passed the Senate by 30-0 on May 4 and was reported favorably, without amendment, by the House Corrections Committee on May 4, recommitted and reported against on May 6.