

- SUBJECT:** Creating a legislative committee to address the aging state population
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Rose, Herrero, Darby, Elkins, Hernandez, Hughes, Legler, Naishtat, Walle
- 0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 22 — 30-0
- WITNESSES:** (*On House companion bill, HB 610:*)
For — Amanda Frederiksen, AARP; Jim Hine; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ollie Besteiro, AARP; Anita Bradberry, Texas Association for Home Care, Inc.; Ben Campbell, TORCH; Derek Daniels, Texas Assisted Living Providers Advocacy Group; Paula Johnson, Homer Lear, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; Sharon Liggett, Texas Assisted Living Association; George Linial, Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; Jason Sabo, United Ways of Texas; (*On HB 610 committee substitute:*) Carlos Higgins, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Tim Graves, Texas Health Care Association)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The number of Texans age 65 and older is expected to triple from the year 2020 to 2040, from 2.1 million to 6.3 million. In 2003, the Texas Department of Aging was abolished. Since that time, services for the aging have been provided by various agencies.
- DIGEST:** SB 1230 would create the Legislative Committee on Aging under the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). The committee would be established to study issues relating to the aging population of Texas, including health care, housing, transportation, income, education, and employment needs.
- The committee would be composed of two members of the Senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House, and two members

of the public appointed by the governor. Committee members would serve at the pleasure of the appointing official, and the presiding officer of the committee would be appointed by the speaker and the lieutenant governor on an alternating basis. The presiding officer would serve a two-year term.

The committee would study, analyze, and report on issues regarding aging and state and local aging services.

All state agencies and officials would be required to cooperate with the committee, and existing staff resources of the Senate or the House of Representatives could be used to assist the committee. The committee could call witnesses and subpoena books, records, documents, or instruments as required.

No later than November 15 of each even-numbered year, the committee would submit a report that included legislative recommendations to the standing committees of each house with jurisdiction of issues related to the needs of the aging population.

SB 1230 would allow the HHSC executive commissioner to contract with an entity to conduct local forums, provide analysis, education, and research services, and to identify problems and develop and recommend solutions for issues regarding aging.

The bill would allow an individual performing duties under the contract to be reimbursed for expenses incurred at the same rate as state employees.

SB 1230 also would establish the Chris Kyker Endowment for Seniors Fund as a special fund outside the state treasury. The fund would consist of money appropriated to the fund, grants, gifts, and donations, and income and interest, including depository interest. The bill would allow funds to be appropriated only to fund the contract. The comptroller would administer and invest the fund, and the executive commissioner could adopt rules regarding distribution of the funds.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009, and the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker would appoint members no later than 30 days after the effective date. The Legislative Committee on Aging established by the bill would convene its initial meeting no later than November 1, 2009.

NOTES:

The House companion bill, HB 610 by Naishtat, passed the House by 96-33 on April 30 and was considered in a public hearing by the Senate Administration Committee on May 18. It was reported favorably, without amendment, on May 20 and was recommended for the Senate Local and Uncontested Calendar.