

- SUBJECT:** County inspection of day-care centers and group day-care homes
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Rose, Herrero, Darby, Elkins, Hernandez, Naishtat, Walle
0 nays
2 absent — Hughes, Legler
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 23 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — David Jefferson, Tarrant County Public Health; Mark Mendez, Tarrant County Commissioners Court
Against — None
On — Scott Silverthorne, Department of Family and Protective Services
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) requires a health and sanitation inspection to be completed for licensure of day-care centers and group day-care homes. The department does not perform the inspection, but accepts certificates issued by a city or allows self-assessment by the operator in unincorporated areas. DFPS requirements establish the minimum state standards, but municipalities may set higher standards and enforce compliance.

Many cities do not have large, well-equipped public health departments but a large county in which a municipality is located may. In these situations, the county could perform required inspections more cost-effectively and efficiently than the city could. However, current law does not authorize a county to contract with a city to conduct day care inspections.
- DIGEST:** SB 893 would amend Local Government Code, ch. 234 to allow county health officers or officials designated by the commissioners court, in counties with a population of 700,000 or more, to contract with a

municipality for the county to conduct municipally required inspections of day-care centers or group day-care homes.

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, 2009.