

- SUBJECT:** Continuing the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Raymond, Rose, Keough, S. King, Naishtat, Peña, Price
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Klick, Spitzer
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eileen Garcia, Texans Care for Children; Andrew Crim, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities; Ginger Mayeaux, The Arc of Texas; Kat Swift)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Erick Fajardo, Sunset Advisory Commission (staff); Mary Durham and Roger Webb, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities)
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), formerly the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, was established to advocate for increased awareness, services, support, and education of individuals with developmental disabilities. The federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act requires that each state establish and maintain a state council on developmental disabilities in order to receive federal funding for developmental disability services. TCDD develops a state plan for the use of federal funds and awards grants to state agencies, universities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit businesses.
- TCDD is governed by 27 members appointed by the governor, including five state agency representatives, two representatives from nonprofit organizations, two local organization representatives, six representatives who have developmental disabilities, and 12 representatives who have relatives with developmental disabilities. Members serve staggered six-

year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive full terms. The board oversees a staff of 14.

According to the Sunset Advisory Commission, TCDD spent \$5.8 million in fiscal 2013, including \$1.5 million on operations and \$4.3 million on grant projects. TCDD reported in its 2014 annual report that its fiscal 2014 budget was \$4.8 million. According to the council, it spent 67 percent of its budget that year on grants, 27 percent on staff operations, and 6 percent on other operating expenses.

TCDD receives most of its \$5 million in annual federal funding from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Federal funding is based on Texas' population and certain poverty factors. According to the Sunset Advisory Commission, the council awarded 50 grants to 41 organizations in fiscal 2013, with grant awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 and averaging \$75,000.

TCDD last underwent Sunset review in 1999 under HB 1610 by McCall. Its authorization will expire on September 1, 2015, unless it is continued.

DIGEST: HB 1679 would continue TCDD until September 1, 2027.

This 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, 2015.

SUPPORTERS SAY: By continuing the operations and functions of TCDD for another 12 years, HB 1679 would ensure that Texas could continue to receive about \$5 million annually in federal funding for developmental disability services. Federal law mandates that each state establish and maintain a state council for developmental disabilities as a condition for receiving this funding, and TCDD serves this vital function.

More than 475,000 people in Texas have developmental disabilities, but only about 20 percent to 25 percent receive government developmental disabilities services. TCDD identifies and addresses the needs of Texans

with developmental disabilities and presses for system changes that allow Texans with developmental disabilities to gain more control over their lives.

The council awards grants to non-profit and for-profit entities that serve the developmental disabilities population. TCDD funds projects that develop leadership and advocacy skills, community inclusion, health and fitness promotion, and employment services. TCDD performs outreach and education programs in communities to work toward full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

TCDD understands the importance of strengthening its reporting with regard to past and current grant projects. Formal reporting on the impact of grant projects is a good idea that would best be implemented as part of an ongoing effort to align the council's tracking methodologies with those of its federal authority, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. While TCDD currently does not require formal reports from past grant projects, it does receive informal reports intermittently and hopes to establish a formal reporting system in the near future.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The Senate companion, SB 210 by Birdwell, was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on February 23.