

SUBJECT: Creating an investigation unit for certain illegal childcare facilities

COMMITTEE: Human Services — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Deshotel, Miller, Rose

0 nays

4 absent — Clardy, Klick, Meza, Noble

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 17 — 28-3 (Hall, Hughes, Schwertner)

WITNESSES: For — Kimberly Kofron, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; David Feigen, Texans Care For Children; Sarah Crockett, Texas CASA; Jennifer Lucy, TexProtects; and six individuals)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jean Shaw, Health and Human Services Commission)

DIGEST: SB 706 would require the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to maintain a unit within the childcare licensing division consisting of investigators whose primary responsibility was to identify and childcare facilities operating without a license, certification, registration, or listing and initiate appropriate enforcement actions against those facilities.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019. The executive commissioner would have to establish the investigation unit as soon as possible after the effective date.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have an estimated negative impact of \$4.5 million to general revenue related funds

through fiscal 2020-21.