

SUBJECT: Establishing certain safety and security protocols for daycare centers

COMMITTEE: Youth Health & Safety, Select — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — S. Thompson, Allison, Capriglione, A. Johnson, T. King

1 nay — Hull

3 absent — Dutton, Landgraf, Lozano

WITNESSES: For — Jeffrey Yarbrough (*Registered, but did not testify*: Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; and nine individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kelsey Kling, Texas AFT)

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

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that some daycare centers may not have adequate safety and security measures to address certain emergencies.

DIGEST: HB 5284 would require the Texas School Safety Center to collaborate with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to:

- research best practices regarding emergency preparedness of daycare centers and serve as a clearinghouse for that information;
- develop certain safety and security audit procedures for daycare centers;
- develop and publish guidelines for standard emergency response protocol requirements; and
- provide daycare centers with safety and standard emergency response protocol training and technical assistance.

Each daycare center would be required to follow the standard emergency response protocol guidelines developed by the center in collaboration with

the commission and conduct safety and security audits developed by the Texas School Safety Center. Daycare centers also would have to report the results of the safety and security audit to the Texas School Safety Center.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023. As soon as practicable after the effective date, the Texas School Safety Center and HHSC would be required to develop the required procedures and guidelines.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 5284 would have a negative impact of \$906,168 on general revenue related funds for fiscal 2024-25.