

SUBJECT: Creating a statewide interagency aging services coordinating council

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Frank, Rose, Campos, Hull, Klick, Manuel, Noble, Ramos
1 nay — Shaheen

WITNESSES: For —Eddie Orum, AARP Texas; Jon Weizenbaum (*Registered, but did not testify*: Joshua Massingill, LeadingAge Texas; Bill Kelly, Mayor’s Office City of Houston; Patricia Ducayet, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman; Jessica Lynch, Texas Association of Health Plans; Matt Dowling, Texas Medical Association; Ashley Ford, The Arc of Texas; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas)

Against — None

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

DIGEST: CSHB 728 would create a statewide interagency aging services coordinating council to develop a strategic approach to interagency aging services.

Duties. The council would be required to develop a five-year statewide interagency aging services strategic plan and submit the plan to the executive commissioner of Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the administrative head of each agency subject to the plan. By November 1 of each even-numbered year, the council would have to submit to the Legislature a biennial aging services expenditure proposal.

Annually, the council would be required to publish an updated inventory of state-funded interagency aging programs and services, including a description of how those programs and services furthered the purpose of the strategic plan. The council could facilitate opportunities to increase collaboration for effective expenditure of available state and federal

funding for interagency aging services and could establish subcommittees as necessary to carry out its duties.

Strategic and implementation plans. The council would be required to develop a new strategic plan for the next five state fiscal years by March 1 of the last state fiscal year covered by the most recent strategic plan. The council would have to submit the plan to HHSC's executive commissioner and the administrative head of each agency subject to the plan.

Within 90 days of receiving the plan, HHSC's executive commissioner and the administrative head of each agency subject to the plan would be required to develop and submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the Legislature a plan to implement recommendations from the strategic plan. The implementation plan would have to include a justification for declining to implement a recommendation.

The council would be required to submit its first strategic plan by March 1, 2025.

Council membership. The council would have at least one representative appointed by each of the following entities:

- the governor's office;
- HHSC, including one representative of HHSC's aging services coordination office;
- the Department of Family and Protective Services;
- the Department of State Health Services;
- the Department of Agriculture's Office of Rural Health;
- the Texas Veterans Commission;
- the Texas Workforce Commission;
- the attorney general's office;
- the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio;
- the Texas Aging and Longevity Consortium at the University of Texas at Austin; and

- the Center for Community Health and Aging at Texas A&M University.

HHSC's executive commissioner would determine the number of representatives that each entity could appoint to the council. The council could authorize another entity that provided specific interagency aging services with the use of appropriated money to appoint a representative to the council.

Council members would serve six-year terms. A vacancy on the council would be filled in the same way as the original appointment, and a council member appointed to fill a vacancy would serve the remainder of the unexpired term. The representative of HHSC's aging services coordination office would serve as the presiding officer.

The appropriate entities would be required to make appointments to the council by January 31, 2024.

Meetings. The council would be required to meet at least once quarterly or more frequently at the call of the presiding officer. The council would be required to hold its first meeting by March 31, 2024.

Sunset review. The council would be subject to Sunset review during the same period as HHSC. Unless continued in statute, the council would be abolished and the bill's provisions would expire on the date on which HHSC was subject to abolishment.

Effective date. 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, 2023.

SUPPORTERS
SAY:

The population of Texas is aging rapidly, and CSHB 728 would provide support to the population age 60 and older. A statewide approach is critical to address the increasing demand for essential services for the aging population. The strategic plan would coordinate aging services and programs to eliminate redundancy, replicate successful models for service

coordination, ensure optimal service delivery, and collect data on results and effectiveness. CSHB 728 would help the state build an efficient, cost-effective system for aging services and programs.

CRITICS
SAY:

CSHB 728 is unnecessary because similar councils already exist, including the Legislative Committee on Aging and the Task Force on Disaster Issues Affecting Persons who are Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.