(b) The state may contribute money, property, and other resources to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a veterans hospital described by this section.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 22, 2009: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 21, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 440

H.B. No. 2225

AN ACT

relating to creating a committee to review the process for finding permanent placements for children in the conservatorship of the state.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. (a) The Department of Family and Protective Services, in conjunction with the adoption review committee described by Subsection (b) of this section, shall conduct an extensive review of the foster care system to:

(1) identify obstacles that impede the department’s ability to find a permanent placement for foster children, including placement by adoption; and
(2) develop ways to improve the foster care system by:

(A) reducing the time a child is in the conservatorship of the department before being permanently placed;

(B) reducing the number of children in the conservatorship of the department who are placed outside of their home county; and

(C) enhancing the procedures for adopting foster children.

(b) The adoption review committee is composed of the following nine members:

(1) four members appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission as follows:

(A) an employee of the Department of Family and Protective Services;

(B) a representative from a licensed child-placing agency that provides adoption services;

(C) a representative from the Council on Adoptable Children of Texas; and

(D) an attorney with expertise in handling adoptions; and

(2) five members appointed by the governor who have expertise in or a demonstrated commitment to adoption issues.

(c) The adoption review committee shall meet at least quarterly.

(d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the Department of Family and Protective Services shall submit a written report of the results of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. The report must include:

(1) a summary of the findings of the review conducted under Subsection (a) of this section;

(2) a summary of the obstacles identified in the review that impede the department’s ability to find permanent placements for foster children;
(3) recommendations of actions the department should take to eliminate the obstacles described by Subdivision (2) of this subsection; and

(4) any legislative recommendations that would improve the foster care system.

SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2009, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission and the governor shall appoint the members of the adoption review committee and the adoption review committee shall begin performing its duties as provided by this Act.

SECTION 3. The adoption review committee is abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2011.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 28, 2009: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2225 on May 25, 2009: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

CHAPTER 411

H.B. No. 2237

AN ACT
relating to possession by certain alcoholic beverage permit holders of certain alcoholic beverages for cooking purposes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 25.09, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.09. POSSESSION OF CERTAIN BEVERAGES PROHIBITED. (a) Except as provided by this section, a wine and beer retailer's permittee or an officer of the permittee[,] may not possess distilled spirits or liquor containing alcohol in excess of 17 percent by volume on the licensed premises.

(b) The commission by rule may allow a wine and beer retailer's permittee or the permittee's officer to possess and use alcoholic beverages in excess of 17 percent by volume on the licensed premises for cooking purposes.

SECTION 2. Section 28.06, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The commission by rule may allow the holder of a mixed beverage permit or an officer, agent, or employee of the permit holder to possess and use alcoholic beverages that are not covered by an invoice on the permitted premises for cooking purposes.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on March 31, 2009: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.
Effective September 1, 2009.