

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2017
By: Christian (Carona)
Human Services
5/14/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

In implementing the federal "Charitable Choice" provision of the Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act of 1996, and the Welfare to Work reform in Texas, various legislators and state agencies have attempted to identify churches and other faith-based organizations that attempt to help people in need and assist them in gaining independence from governmental assistance programs. The purpose of this bill is to enhance communication and cooperation between the Texas Department of Human Services (department) and faith-based organizations. H.B. 2017 would require the Commissioner of Human Services to designate one department employee in each of the department's administrative regions to serve as a liaison to faith-based organizations in the region with the potential ability to provide community services for the needy.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2017 establishes provisions regarding the designation of certain state employees as liaisons to faith-based organizations for the purpose of promoting community services for the needy and to the promotion of cooperation and coordination among certain organizations by local workforce development boards.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 21, Human Resources Code, by adding Section 21.0061, as follows:

Sec. 21.0061. LIAISONS TO FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS. Requires the Commissioner of Human Services (commissioner) to designate one Department of Human Services (department) employee in each of the department's administrative regions to serve as a liaison to faith-based organizations in the region with the potential ability to provide community services for the needy. Requires the commissioner to ensure that the primary function of each employee designated a liaison is to fulfill certain conditions.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 2308.303(a), Government Code, to require the local workforce development board to promote cooperation and coordination among public organizations, community organizations, charitable organizations, religious organizations, and private businesses providing workforce development, in a manner consistent with nondiscrimination principles and safeguards stated in 42 U.S.C. Section 604a.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.