

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.H.B. 822  
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Human Services  
4/28/1999  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, Texas counties are responsible for administering county finances, recording vital statistics, holding elections, preserving law and order, administering justice through the courts, building and maintaining county roads, and providing health and welfare services. Six Texas counties account for 40 percent of the state's population, which require an extensive array of social services programs. C.S.H.B. 822 would establish a task force of state agencies and county representatives to identify and remedy problems in local government, and would determine how they might work together to ensure that counties receive the maximum federal reimbursement for their services.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.H.B. 822 establishes a task force composed of state agencies and county representatives to study federal reimbursements to counties.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Sets forth the composition of the task force on federal reimbursements to counties (task force). Requires the task force to study the changes needed to increase federal reimbursements to county governments, identify ways to increase the reimbursement the federal government pays for the indirect cost that counties incur in administering aid programs, and identify methods of training employees on ways to increase federal reimbursements. Requires the task force to report on its findings to the 77th Legislature no later than January 15, 2001. Requires the state agencies listed by Subsection (a)(3) of this section to provide staff support to enable the task force to carry out its duties. Provides that this Act expires February 1, 2001.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

#### SECTION 1.

Changes the composition of the task force to include nine persons representing counties appointed by the commissioner of health and human services, rather than nine members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and comptroller.

Deletes a provision that requires the comptroller to serve on the task force if the office of the commissioner of health and human services is abolished.