

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1574
By: West
Human Services
3/29/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, over 1.3 million Texas youths are estimated to be at increased risk of delinquent activities due to the effects of poverty, prenatal substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, or parents ill-equipped for the responsibilities of raising a child. Current prevention and intervention efforts are often narrowly focused on specific risk factors and fragmented among several different agencies. This bill sets forth guidelines for the consolidation and administration of certain programs for at-risk children and their families.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1574 sets forth guidelines for the consolidation and administration of certain programs for at-risk children and their families.

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 Section 40.002(b), Human Resources Code, to provide that the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS) has primary responsibility for implementing and managing programs intended to prevent at-risk behaviors that lead to child abuse, delinquency, running away, truancy, and dropping out of school (childhood problems).

SECTION 2. Amends Title 5E, Family Code, by adding Chapter 265, as follows:

CHAPTER 265. PREVENTION SERVICES

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 265.001. DEFINITIONS. Defines "department," "division," and "prevention services."

Sec. 265.002. PREVENTION SERVICES DIVISION. Requires DPRS to operate a division to provide services for children and families of children in at-risk situations and to consolidate prevention services within the jurisdiction of a single agency to duplication of services and increase accountability in the delivery of services. Requires the division of the DPRS to be named preventative services division (PSD) and requires PSD to perform certain duties.

Sec. 265.003. CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAMS. Requires DPRS to consolidate into PSD programs aimed at preventing at-risk behavior that leads to childhood problems. Authorizes PSD to provide additional prevention services.

SECTION 3. Provides that certain programs are transferred from certain agencies to DPRS to be administered by PSD on the effective date of this Act. Provides that all elements of an agency listed in Subsection (a) are transferred to DPRS on September 1, 1999. Provides that employees of the services for at-risk youth program and the community youth development grant program are transferred to PSD. Provides that the number of employees transferred to DPRS is not included in determining DPRS compliance with limitations on the number of full-time equivalent positions for the 1999 and 2000 state fiscal years. Provides that references to transferred agencies or executive officers listed in Subsection (a) mean DPRS or the executive director of DPRS. Provides that rules of agencies listed in Subsection (a) remain in effect until such rules are superseded by rules of DPRS. Provides that associated power from

the transfer of powers does not affect any act done under former law. Provides that an action brought before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law applicable to the action immediately before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.