

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R11264 SGA-D

H.B. 1758
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Criminal Justice
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Female juvenile offenders commit different types of offenses than their male counterparts. Females are three times as likely to experience sexual abuse, which may be an underlying factor in some female delinquency. Service providers must take these differences into account when designing services and treatment programs for teenage girls. Sometimes, a substantially new approach is necessary to effectively treat and serve females. H.B. 1758 directs each state health and human services agency that provides services for teenagers to assess the effectiveness of its services for females and report its progress to the Health and Human Services Commission.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531A, Government Code, by adding Section 531.016, as follows:

Sec. 531.016. EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND TREATMENT. (a) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (commission), the Texas Youth Commission, and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to periodically review, document, and compare the accessibility and funding of facilities, services, and treatment provided to females under 18 years of age to the accessibility and funding of facilities, services, and treatment provided to males in the same age group.

(b) Requires the commission to coordinate the review, documentation, and comparison required by Subsection (a).

(c) Requires the review to include certain areas.

(d) Requires each health and human services agency or other state agency that provides certain services to identify existing differences within the agency in the allocation and expenditures of money and services for males under 18 years of age in comparison to females in the same age group. Requires each agency to submit a report to the commission describing any differences identified.

(e) Requires each agency described in Subsection (d) to develop and submit certain plans or reports.

(f) Requires the commission to assemble the agency reports submitted under Subsections (d) and (e) and prepare an executive summary to be delivered to the members of the legislature not later than July 1 of each even-numbered year.

(g) Provides that this subsection expires September 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. Requires the commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to jointly establish a timetable for the submission of agency reports as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.