

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 1470
By: Moncrief
Health & Human Services
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the mental health needs of youths in Tarrant County are not being met. As proposed, S.B. 1470 creates a Youth Assertive Community Treatment pilot program in Tarrant County to provide clinical and rehabilitative services to meet the needs of children who have a history of mental or behavioral health problems.

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 533B, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 533.048, as follows:

Sec. 533.048. YOUTH ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Defines, "ACT pilot program," "ACT team," and "targeted youth."

(b) Requires the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (department) to establish a Youth Assertive Community Treatment pilot program in Tarrant County to provide treatment, rehabilitation, and support services to targeted youth in Tarrant County. Requires the ACT pilot program to be modeled on other Assertive Community Treatment programs that have been established across the state by the department.

(c) Requires the department to create an ACT team consisting of degreed or licensed professionals in the clinical treatment or rehabilitation fields to be responsible for administering the ACT pilot program. Requires the professionals chosen for the ACT team to include a full-time registered nurse, who will provide direct services to the targeted youth, and a psychiatrist, who will be available to the ACT pilot program for a minimum of 10 hours per week. Requires the ACT team to maintain a ratio of not less than one ACT team member for each 10 targeted youth, with a maximum of 30 targeted youth receiving services at any one time.

(d) Requires the ACT team, in administering the ACT pilot program, to provide and maintain certain services.

SECTION 2. Requires the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, not later than January 15, 2003, to submit to the governor and the legislature a report concerning the effectiveness of the Youth Assertive Community Treatment pilot program established under Section 533.048, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.