

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R3429 KLA-D

S.B. 297
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Health & Human Services
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's March 1996 Current Population Survey, about 4 million children nationwide lived in a grandparent's home, nearly double the 2.3 million who did so in 1980. With the passage of S.B. 1423 by the 76th Legislature and the inception of the Grandparents Program, more than 4,400 grandparent households and more than 8,000 grandchildren in Texas have benefitted from the one-time payment of \$1,000 as of January 29, 2001. As proposed, S.B. 297 increases the income limit from 100 percent of the federal poverty level to 150 percent, which would provide supplemental financial assistance to additional grandparents who care for their grandchildren. This bill will allow thousands of children to remain in the care of grandparents and offer them an alternative to the foster care system.

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 Section 31.0041(a), Human Resources Code, to change eligibility requirements for supplemental financial assistance for the support of a dependent child by the Texas Department of Human Services from a family whose income is at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level to one that is 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

SECTION 2. Requires that, if before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation, the state agency request the waiver or authorization and authorizes implementation of that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.