

SUBJECT: Removing Juvenile Probation from list of health and human services agencies

COMMITTEE: Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Goodman, A. Reyna, P. King, Menendez, Naishtat, Nixon

0 nays

3 absent — E. Reyna, Morrison, Tillery

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Vicki Spriggs, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission

BACKGROUND: The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) allocates financial aid and provides technical assistance and training to local juvenile boards and juvenile probation departments, sets uniform probation standards and minimum standards for juvenile detention facilities, and conducts studies.

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) establishes a strategic plan for health and human services agencies and submits a consolidated budget recommendation for the agencies under its jurisdiction. TJPC was placed under HHSC when it was created in 1991. The 12 other agencies falling under HHSC's purview are the: Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention, Texas Department on Aging, Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Texas Commission for the Blind, Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Human Services, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR), Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS), Children's Trust Fund of Texas Council, and Texas Health Care Information Council. The Texas Youth Commission was removed from the health and human services agency list in 1993.

**DIGEST:** HB 2281 would amend the Government Code and Human Resources Code by removing TJPC from the definition of health and human services agencies. It would repeal a provision giving certain powers and duties to the Health and Human Services Commissioner relating to TJPC.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2001.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 2281 is necessary because TJPC does not fit under the health and human services umbrella. Health and human services agencies are grouped under Article 2 in the legislative appropriations bill, but TJPC's appropriation is contained in Article 5 with criminal justice and public safety agencies. TJPC is the only Article 5 agency included under HHSC. The commission conducts studies and produces reports for all health and human services agencies except TJPC. Studies and reports of TJPC are conducted and produced by the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council.

If TJPC were moved out from under HHSC, it would continue to work with MHMR and DPRS, the two health and human services agencies with which TJPC has the most interaction. Other than those two agencies, TJPC has limited interagency interaction with health and human services agencies. The amount of additional work and meetings required of health and human services agencies is burdensome and unnecessary for an agency that primarily performs criminal justice work.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:** The companion bill, SB 1589 by Moncrief, passed the Senate on the Local and Uncontested Calendar on April 11 and was referred to the House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee on April 17.