

- SUBJECT:** Staffing analysis for eligibility determination and expansion of TIERS
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Rose, Herrero, Darby, Hernandez, Hughes, Legler, Naishtat, Walle  
0 nays  
1 absent — Elkins
- WITNESSES:** For — Joan Barasch; Celia Hagert, Center for Public Policy Priorities; Katy Kappel, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; Judy Lugo, Texas State Employees Union; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michelle Apodaca, Texas Hospital Association; Sara Black; Robert Borowski, Texas Impact; Alison Dieter, Texas Gray Panthers; Amanda Fredriksen, AARP; Oscar Garcia, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; Marshall Kenderdine, Texas Pediatric Society; Susan Murphree, Advocacy, Incorporated; Charles Oerter, Texas Association of Child Placing Agencies; Derrick Osobase, Texas Employees Union; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; Jodie Smith, Texans Care For Children)  
  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) is a web-based application being implemented on a regional basis to replace Texas' existing system used to determine eligibility for benefits provided by HHSC, such as Medicaid.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3859 would require HHSC to conduct a staffing analysis to determine staffing needs with respect to the benefits eligibility determination system and the expansion of TIERS.  
  
HHSC would determine the number of full-time staff HHSC and any contractor would need to implement TIERS fully, with no lapses in the provision of benefits. In determining staffing levels, the commission would consider state and federal requirements for access to health and human services programs and HHSC's performance standards for these programs.

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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.