

- SUBJECT:** Updating prevention and early intervention programs and practices
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Klick, Meza, Neave, Noble
- 2 nays — Hull, Shaheen
- 1 absent — Rose
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 29 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — Marcus Jones, Texas Education Policy Institute; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Greg Hansch and Matthew Lovitt, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Katie Mitten, Texans Care for Children; Molly Thibodeaux, Texas Council on Family Violence; Lauren Rose, Texas Network of Youth Services; Brittney Taylor, TexProtects; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Knox Kimberly, Upbring; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — Andrew Brown, Texas Public Policy Foundation; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sasha Rasco, Department of Family and Protective Services)
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code sec. 265.151 governs parenting education programs provided through prevention and early intervention services. The section specifies that a parenting education program provided by the Department of Family and Protective Services must be an evidence-based program or a promising practice program and sets out the criteria for such programs.
- It has been suggested that statutory provisions relating to prevention and early intervention services should be updated.
- DIGEST:** CSSB 452 would update statutory provisions relating to prevention and early intervention (PEI) services by including additional requirements for

PEI programs and practices on the evidence-based spectrum and by changing outcome requirements and certain language referencing such programs and practices.

Requirements for PEI programs and practices. The bill would revise Family Code sec. 265.151 so that it contained requirements for programs and practices on the evidence-based spectrum. References to "parenting education programs or practices" would be replaced with "evidence-based programs or practices," and the bill would repeal a provision specific to parenting education programs.

Under the bill, an evidence-based program or practice would have to meet certain criteria under sec. 265.151, including a requirement that the program or practice be associated with an organization in this state, a national organization, an institution of higher education, or a national or state public health institute.

Evidence-informed program or practice. The bill would define an evidence-informed program or practice as a program or practice that:

- combined well-researched interventions with clinical experience and ethics, and client preferences and culture, to guide and inform the delivery of treatments and services;
- had an active impact evaluation of the program or practice or demonstrated a schedule for implementing an active impact evaluation;
- substantially complied with a program or practice manual or design that specified the purpose, outcome, duration, and frequency of the program or practice services; and
- employed well-trained and competent staff and provided continual relevant professional development opportunities to the staff.

Outcomes of PEI programs and practices; evaluation. The bill would amend outcome requirements for evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs and practices to include:

- increased readiness for an participation and performance in school, rather than increased school readiness;
- increased protective factors, including nurturing, bonding, and other parenting skills; and
- reduced youth involvement with the criminal justice system.

The bill also would make conforming changes related to the evaluation of PEI programs and practices and reports to the Legislature.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.