

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2126
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Health & Human Services
5-5-97
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the Department of Human Services (department) has an evaluation team that conducts research on the department's programs; however, the existence of the research department is at the discretion of the commissioner of the agency. There have been a number of instances in which the evaluation unit was dissolved, most recently in 1989. The current unit was established in 1992. Recreating the evaluation unit is a time-consuming process that could be avoided if the department was required to maintain the unit at all times. This bill will require the department to evaluate and improve its programs.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2126 requires the Department of Human Services to evaluate and improve its programs.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 22, Human Resources Code, by adding Section 22.0015, as follows:

Sec. 22.0015. EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PROGRAMS. Requires the Department of Human Services (department) to conduct research, analysis, and reporting of its programs to evaluate and improve the programs. Authorizes the department to contract with one or more independent private entities to assist the department with the research, analysis, and reporting required by this section.

SECTION 2. Requires the department, not later than January 15, 1999, to report to certain persons regarding the department's success in evaluating and improving its programs. Requires the department to notify certain persons of the filing of the report.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.