

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 885  
By: Maxey (Zaffirini)  
Health & Human Services  
4-28-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, approximately 1,900 children across the State of Texas live in state funded out-of-home placements. The Department of Protective and Regulatory Services is the only state agency developing permanency plans for children in foster care. This bill would require the Health and Human Services Commission to develop four pilot sites and a system of blended funds to implement plans for all children either currently in institutional care or at risk of being placed in institutional care.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 885 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to develop four pilot sites and a system of blended funds to implement permanency plans for all children either currently in institutional care or at risk of being placed in institutional care.

### **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 531, Government Code, by adding Subchapter D, as follows:

#### **SUBCHAPTER D. PERMANENCY PLANNING**

Sec. 531.151. DEFINITIONS. Defines "institution" and "permanency planning."

Sec. 531.152. POLICY STATEMENT. Sets forth the legislative policy statement relating to the children of the State of Texas.

Sec. 531.153. DEVELOPMENT OF PERMANENCY PLAN. Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (commission) and each appropriate health and human services agency to develop procedures to ensure that a permanency plan is developed for each child residing in an institution in this state on a temporary or long-term basis or for whom institutional care is sought.

Sec. 531.154. LOCAL PERMANENCY PLANNING SITES. Requires the commission to develop an implementation system that consists initially of four or more local sites and that is designed to coordinate planning for a permanent living arrangement and relationship for a child with a family. Sets forth the required guidelines in regard to development of the system by the commission.

Sec. 531.155. PERMANENCY REPORTING. Requires the commission, for each of the local permanency planning sites, to develop a reporting system under which each appropriate health and human services agency responsible for permanency planning under this subchapter is required to provide certain information to the commission semiannually.

SECTION 2. Requires the commission, no later than December 1, 1998, to prepare and deliver to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and clerks of the standing

committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over the welfare of children, a report concerning certain information.

SECTION 3. Requires each state agency responsible for providing residential care for children, no later than December 1, 1998, to develop methods to include permanency planning as a goal in each care plan developed by the agency for a child living outside a family setting; and to prepare and deliver a report concerning implementation of the methods developed under Subdivision (1) of this section to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and clerks of the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over the welfare of children.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.