

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 54
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Health & Human Services
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is no comprehensive listing of state programs serving children up to age four. As proposed, S.B. 54 requires agencies that provide services to young children to report to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission regarding their efforts. It also requires the commission to report to the legislature and recommend plans for improved coordination between agencies.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the commissioner of health and human services in SECTION 1 (Section 531.0244, Government Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531B, Government Code, to add Section 531.0244, as follows:

Sec. 531.0244. DELIVERY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO YOUNG TEXANS. (a) Requires the executive head of each health and human services agency to report annually to the governing body of that agency on that agency's efforts to provide health and human services to children younger than four years of age, including the development of any new programs or the enhancement of existing programs. Requires the agency to submit a copy of the report to the Health and Human Services Commission (commission).

(b) Requires the commission to prepare and deliver a biennial report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the comptroller, the Legislative Budget Board, and appropriate legislative committees on the efforts of the health and human services agencies to provide health and human services to children younger than four years of age. Authorizes the report to contain recommendations by the commission to better coordinate state agency programs relating to the delivery of health and human services to children younger than four years of age and to propose joint agency collaborative programs.

(c) Requires the commissioner of health and human services (commissioner) to adopt rules relating to the reports required by Subsection (a), including rules specifying when and in what manner a health and human services agency is required to report and the information to be included in the report. Requires each agency to follow the rules adopted by the commissioner under this section.

SECTION 2. Requires the commission to prepare and deliver the first report as required by Section 531.0244(b), Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2002.