

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R4694 DLF-F

C.S.S.B. 579
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Education
3/22/2001
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

In 1999 the Texas Department of Health (department) appointed the School Health Advisory Committee (committee) to provide assistance to the Board of Health (board) in establishing a leadership role for the department in the support for and delivery of school health services. C.S.S.B. 579 assures the continuation of the committee; directs the board, with input from the committee, to recommend procedures and minimum standards for providing quality health care services to school-aged children in public elementary and secondary schools; and requires that the governing body of each school district consider implementing the procedures and standards recommended by the board.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Board of Health in SECTION 1 (Section 12.171, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 12, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subchapter K, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Sec. 12.171. PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS. Requires the Texas Board of Health (board) by rule to recommend procedures and minimum standards for providing quality health care services to school-aged children in public elementary and secondary schools. Requires the recommendations to identify available appropriate funding mechanisms.

Sec. 12.172. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) Requires the board to appoint a school health advisory committee to assist the board in performing its duties under this subchapter. Provides that the advisory committee consists of 16 members, including two physicians who provide health care services to school-aged children, two registered nurses or physician assistants providing health care services in public elementary or secondary schools, two public school administrators, two members representing entities involved with the health of school-aged children, two members who are mental health professionals who have at least a master's degree, and six public members.

(b) Requires the public members of the school health advisory committee to include parents of school-aged children and at least one parent of a child with special health care needs.

(c) Provides that the advisory committee is subject to Chapter 2110 (State Advisory Committees), Government Code.

Sec. 12.173. DISTRIBUTION AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) Requires the Texas Department of Health, not less frequently than once in each state fiscal biennium, to notify each school district in this state of the availability of the recommended

procedures and minimum standards adopted under Section 12.171.

(b) Requires the governing body of each school district to consider implementing, but does require it to implement, the procedures and minimum standards recommended under this subchapter.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Differs from the original in SECTION 1, Section 12.172, Health and Safety Code, by changing the composition of the advisory committee from four members representing entities involved with the health of school-aged children to two members representing such entities, and to add to the committee two members who are mental health professionals who have at least a master's degree.