

## BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center  
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S.B. 875  
By: West, Royce  
Health & Human Services  
3/30/2001  
As Filed

### DIGEST AND PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 875 adds to the state's strategic plan for health and human services the goal that the plan encourage full participation of fathers in programs and services relating to children. The bill also requires the Health and Human Services Commission, the attorney general, and each health and human services agency to examine those entities' policies and procedures to determine if they deter or encourage father involvement, and if needed, modify the policies to encourage fathers to fully participate in the services and programs relating to their children.

### RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

### SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 531.022(c), Government Code, to add language to require the coordinated strategic plan for health and human services to include the encouragement of full participation of fathers in programs and services relating to children.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 531B, Government Code, by adding Section 531.055, as follows:

Sec. 531.055. PARTICIPATION BY FATHERS. (a) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (commission) and each health and human services agency to periodically examine commission or agency policies and procedures to determine if the policies and procedures deter or encourage participation of fathers in commission or agency programs and services relating to children.

(b) Requires the commission and each health and human services agency, based on the examination required under Subsection (a), to modify policies and procedures as necessary to permit full participation of fathers in commission or agency programs and services relating to children in all appropriate circumstances.

SECTION 3. Amends Chapter 402B, Government Code, by adding Section 402.030, as follows:

Sec. 402.030. PARTICIPATION BY FATHERS. (a) Requires the attorney general to periodically examine office policies and procedures to determine if the policies and procedures deter or encourage participation of fathers in functions performed by the attorney general relating to children.

(b) Requires the attorney general, based on the examination required under Subsection (a), to modify policies and procedures as necessary to permit full participation of fathers in functions performed by the attorney general relating to children in all appropriate circumstances.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2001.