

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R1426 MCK-D

S.B. 118
By: Zaffirini
Intergovernmental Relations
4/12/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law authorizes, but does not require, the establishment of multidisciplinary and multiagency teams to review child deaths at the county level. Making the establishment of such teams mandatory could provide more complete and accurate information about the causes and circumstances of child deaths. This information, along with increased cooperation among local agencies, will help ensure appropriately targeted prevention efforts and a decline in child mortality rates. A recent study indicated that Texas communities with review teams have more rapidly declining death rates than similar communities without such teams. As proposed, S.B. 118 makes the establishment of such teams mandatory, and puts the responsibility for setting up the teams in the hands of each county's commissioners court.

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 Sections 264.505 (a) and (b), Family Code, to require the commissioners court of each county to appoint a multidisciplinary and multiagency team to review child deaths in that county, and to authorize the commissioners court of a county with a population under 50,000 to join with adjacent counties when establishing a team. Authorizes any person so appointed to call the team's first organizational meeting, but deletes language allowing members of the team to initiate the establishment of a review team. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. (a) Effective date: September 1, 2003.

(b) Requires the commissioners court of any county that does not have a child fatality review team to appoint one by December 1, 2003.

(c) Makes the application of this Act prospective.