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# Revising inspection, investigation powers of TJJD independent ombudsman

HB 3648 by Guillen (Whitmire)

## Digest

HB 3648 would have established that the powers and duties of the Office of the Independent Ombudsman of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) included inspecting certain types of facilities, including those operated by TJJD, post-adjudication secure facilities, nonsecure facilities for juvenile offenders, and other residential facilities for children adjudicated as having engaged in certain conduct. The bill also would have established that the independent ombudsman's powers and duties included investigating complaints alleging violations of the rights of children placed in these facilities.

## Governor's reason for veto

"I appreciate the author of House Bill 3648 for seeking to clarify the authority of the independent ombudsman who serves a vital role in assisting children committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. That important goal has already been accomplished in the exact same way through Senate Bill 1702, which I have signed into law, and the additional part of House Bill 3648 is unnecessary."

## Response

**Rep. Ryan Guillen**, the bill's author, could not be reached for comment on the veto.

**Sen. John Whitmire**, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

## Notes

HB 3648 passed on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.

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