

SUBJECT: Standards for licensed child-care facilities and registered family homes

COMMITTEE: Human Services —favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Rose, Darby, Elkins, Hernandez, Hughes, Legler, Naishtat, Walle

0 nays

1 absent — Herrero

WITNESSES: For — Jennifer Gardner-Keehn; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Susan Murphree, Advocacy, Incorporated)

Against — None

On — Sasha Rasco, Department of Family and Protective Services

BACKGROUND: Human Resources Code, sec. 42.042(e) provides that the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) establish minimum standards for licensed child-care facilities and registered family homes that:

- promote the health, safety, and welfare of children attending a facility or registered family home;
- promote safe, comfortable, and healthy physical facilities and registered family homes for children;
- ensure adequate supervision of children by capable, qualified, and healthy personnel;
- ensure adequate and healthy food service where food service is offered;
- prohibit racial discrimination by child-care facilities and registered family homes;
- require procedures for parental and guardian consultation in the formulation of children's educational and therapeutic programs; and
- prevent the breakdown of foster care and adoptive placement.

DIGEST: HB 2224 would amend Human Resources Code, sec. 42.042(e), adding to the list of minimum standards for licensed child-care facilities and registered family homes a requirement that the standards:

- ensure that a child-care facility or registered family home follow the directions of a child's physician or other health care provider in providing specialized medical assistance required by the child.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.