

SUBJECT: Implementing a study to consider a scoring system for CPS caseloads

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Clardy, Deshotel, Klick, Meza, Noble
0 nays
2 absent — Miller, Rose

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brianne Gigout, Catholic Charities; Marilyn Hartman and Tesia Krzeminski, National Alliance on Mental Illness Austin; Greg Hansch and Alissa Sughrue, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Tyler Sheldon, Texas State Employees Union; Anita Orr, TSEU; Vanessa Brown)

Against — None

On — Lisa Kanne, Department of Family and Protective Services; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kristene Blackstone and Liz Kromrei, Department of Family and Protective Services)

BACKGROUND: Interested parties note that the varying complexity of individual Child Protective Services cases makes it difficult for the Department of Family and Protective Services to estimate a reasonable caseload for caseworkers.

DIGEST: CSHB 1362 would require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to study the development and implementation of a scoring system to ensure equity in the distribution of cases among Child Protective Services caseworkers.

As part of the study, DFPS would be required to consider the procedures for assigning cases, methods for managing caseloads, and the factors considered in assigning scores to caseloads and assigning cases to caseworkers. DFPS also would have to determine the average caseload for

caseworkers in each department region and the cost to implement a scoring system. DFPS also would have to ensure that any scoring system developed by the department had the capability to produce monthly reports with information on each department region.

DFPS would have to report the results of the study and any recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and chairs of the relevant legislative committees by September 1, 2020.

The bill's provisions would expire September 1, 2021.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.