

- SUBJECT:** Making changes to DFPS case management system
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Clardy, Deshotel, Klick, Meza, Miller, Noble
0 nays
1 absent — Rose
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Sheri Doss, Texas PTA; Aimee Mobley Turney)
Against — None
On — Kristene Blackstone and Lisa Kanne, Department of Family and Protective Services; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Liz Kromrei and Tiffany Roper, Department of Family and Protective Services; Joel Schwartz, Health and Human Services Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Interested parties note that child protective services case files can be changed by caseworkers, investigators, and supervisors without tracking changes or ensuring that a record of the original information is maintained.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2490 would make changes to the Department of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) case tracking and information management system. The bill would require DFPS to ensure that the system:
- locked information related to any stage of service entered in a case narrative in the system by DFPS staff, representatives, or agents after approval by department management;
 - prevented modification of locked information unless authorized by court order and allowed appropriate staff to make relevant supplemental entries; and
 - for any substantive change to information in the system, required

the inclusion of the identity of the person making a change and the date the change was made.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have an estimated negative impact of \$1.6 million to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.