

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing certain powers of TJJD independent ombudsman
- COMMITTEE:** Juvenile Justice and Family Issues — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Dutton, Murr, Calanni, Dean, Lopez, Talarico
- 1 nay — Bowers
- 2 absent — Cyrier, Shine
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 17 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** Human Resources Code sec. 261.101 governs the duties and powers of the Office of the Independent Ombudsman of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.
- It has been suggested that the ombudsman should be able to oversee any facility where a juvenile might be placed.
- DIGEST:** SB 1702 would establish that the powers of the Office of the Independent Ombudsman of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) included:
- the inspection of facilities owned by TJJD, post-adjudication secure correctional facilities, non-secure correctional facilities, and any other residential facilities in which children adjudicated as having engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision or delinquent conduct were placed by court order; and
  - the investigation of complaints alleging violations of the rights of the children in these facilities.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.