

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 59  
By: Zaffirini  
Health and Human Services  
2-6-97  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the Texas Department of Human Services considers a client's functional educational abilities based on the client's work history and education level when imposing time-limited benefits. This bill requires the use of a more in-depth assessment tool to evaluate a person's functional assessment level for the purpose of determining whether that person is eligible for benefits for 12, 24, or 36 months.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 59 sets forth guidelines for assessing certain recipients of public assistance.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 31.0065(f), Human Resources Code, to require the Texas Department of Human Services (department), if the department is imposing time-limited benefits on an individual, to consider the in-depth assessment of the individual's need that was conducted by the department, provided that if the needs assessment indicates discrepancies between a client's self-reported educational level and the client's functional abilities, the time limits are required to be based upon the functional assessment level, rather than the functional educational level.

SECTION 2. Requires a state agency to request a waiver or authorization and authorizes an agency to delay implementing the relevant provision, if before implementing any provision of Section 31.0065, Human Resources Code, the state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1997.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Amends SECTION 1, Section 31.0065, Human Resources Code, by amending Subsection (f), to require the department, if the department is imposing time-limited benefits on an individual, to consider the in-depth assessment of the individual's need that was conducted by the department, and to require the time limits to be based upon the client's functional assessment level, rather than functional educational level, in certain circumstances. Deletes Subsection (g), the provision regarding a client whose in-depth assessment indicates that the individual needs extensive employment preparation.