

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R5023 KLA-D

C.S.S.B. 297  
By: West, Royce  
Health & Human Services  
4/7/2001  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's March 1996 Current Population Survey, about 4 million children nationwide lived in a grandparent's home, nearly double the 2.3 million who did so in 1980. With the passage of S.B. 1423 by the 76th Legislature and the inception of the Grandparents Program, more than 4,400 grandparent households and more than 8,000 grandchildren in Texas have benefitted from the one-time payment of \$1,000 as of January 29, 2001. C.S.S.B. 297 increases the income limit from 100 percent of the federal poverty level to 200 percent, which would provide supplemental financial assistance to additional grandparents who care for their grandchildren. This bill will allow thousands of children to remain in the care of grandparents and offer them an alternative to the foster care system.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 31.0041(a), Human Resources Code, to change eligibility requirements for supplemental financial assistance for the support of a dependent child by the Texas Department of Human Services to a person who is 45, rather than 50, years of age, and from a family whose income is at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level to one that is 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

SECTION 2. Requires that, if before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation, the state agency request the waiver or authorization and authorizes implementation of that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Differs from original in SECTION 1 by changing the minimum age requirement for a person to receive financial assistance to support a dependent child from 50 to 45 years of age, and changing maximum permissible family income from one that is at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level to one that is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.