

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R7328 JJT-D

S.B. 1234
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Human Services
3/29/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the comptroller, according to the Texas Performance Review, recommends that state law should be amended to increase local control of spending for children's mental health services. The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) estimates that two-thirds of Texas children with severe emotional and behavioral problems do not receive the appropriate and comprehensive help they need. This is due in part to the fact that such children often need a variety of services, yet services are fragmented among a number of different agencies, programs, and funding sources, each with different regulations and eligibility requirements. This bill would create a mechanism to allow the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative to award grants to community based projects for mental health services, and allow the HHSC to establish awards criteria and an evaluation system in order to facilitate more grants being awarded at the local level.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1234 requires the expansion and funding of the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative of the Health and Human Services Commission.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to Health and Human Services Commission in SECTION 1 (Chapter 531, Government Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531, Government Code, by adding Subchapter G, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. DEVELOPING LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN

Sec. 531.251. **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH GRANTS.** Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to expand the Texas Integrated Funding Initiative pilot project (TIFI) to enable the TIFI to award certain grants on or before September 1, 2001. Requires HHSC to, by rule, develop criteria for awarding grants under this section to encourage certain action. Authorizes the grants to be paid from a fund developed for the TIFI, and authorizes the HHSC to establish and identify money for related projects.

Sec. 531.252. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT PROJECTS.** Authorizes the HHSC to provide technical assistance to a community that receives a grant under Section 531.251.

Sec. 531.253. **STATEWIDE EVALUATION SYSTEM.** Requires the HHSC to develop an evaluation system to measure outcomes of projects that are associated with the TIFI.

SECTION 2. Requires certain departments, agencies, and commissions to transfer certain funds to finance the TIFI. Requires HHSC to promote the participation of new communities in and projects for the TIFI to attract matching funds and local participation.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.