

## CHAPTER 669

## S.B. No. 1294

An Act relating to the definition of 'interdisciplinary team' and the duties of the Public Responsibility Committee with respect to the team; amending the Mentally Retarded Persons Act of 1977 (Article 5547-300, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) by adding Subdivision (27) to Section 3 and by amending Subsection (a) of Section 56.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 3, Mentally Retarded Persons Act of 1977 (Article 5547-300, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subdivision (27) to read as follows:

*"(27) 'Interdisciplinary team' means a group of mental retardation professionals and paraprofessionals who assess a client's treatment, training, and habilitation needs and make recommendations for services."*

**SECTION 2.** Subsection (a), Section 56, Mentally Retarded Persons Act of 1977 (Article 5547-300, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subdivision (5) to read as follows:

"(a) The powers and duties of the committee shall be to:

"(1) serve as third-party mechanism for protecting and advocating for the health, safety, welfare, and legal and human rights of mentally retarded persons being served by the department or community center;

"(2) receive and investigate complaints made to it by or on behalf of clients and make appropriate recommendations to the facility superintendent or director, to the deputy commissioner of the department with authority over the facility, to the commissioner of the department, and to the governing board as necessary;

"(3) investigate and determine the denial of rights of any person receiving services;

"(4) submit instances of abuse or denial of rights to the appropriate authorities and the advocacy system created under Section 203 of P.L. 94-103 for appropriate action;

*"(5) participate in the department's interdisciplinary team when the committee determines participation is appropriate."*

**SECTION 3.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is

hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on April 18, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 25, 1985, by a non-record vote.

Approved: June 14, 1985

Effective: August 16, 1985