

CHAPTER 619

S.B. No. 155

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Children and Youth.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 3, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Chapter 71 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 71. TEXAS COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sec. 71.001. *CREATION.* The Texas Commission on Children and Youth is created.

Sec. 71.002. *COMPOSITION.* (a) The commission is composed of 18 members, six of whom are appointed by the governor, six of whom are appointed by the lieutenant governor, and six of whom are appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. Not fewer than three of the members appointed by the lieutenant governor shall be members of the senate and not fewer than three of the members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives shall be members of the house of representatives.

(b) In making appointments under this section, the governor shall attempt to ensure participation on the commission by women and minorities, including African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Native Americans, and Asian-Americans.

(c) Each appointed member of the commission serves at the pleasure of the official by whom the member is appointed.

(d) The governor shall designate one member to serve as chairman and one member to serve as vice-chairman.

(e) The commission shall include as *ex officio* members the executive director or commissioner of:

- (1) the Central Education Agency;
- (2) the Texas Youth Commission;
- (3) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission;
- (4) the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services;
- (5) the Texas Department of Health;
- (6) the Texas Department of Human Services;
- (7) the Children's Trust Fund of Texas Council;
- (8) the Health and Human Services Commission;
- (9) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- (10) the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation;
- (11) the Texas Agricultural Extension Service;
- (12) the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; and
- (13) any other agency that the governor identifies as an agency that serves children.

Sec. 71.003. *COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.* The commission is subject to:

(1) the open meetings law, Chapter 271, Acts of the 60th Legislature, Regular Session, 1967 (Article 6252-17, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), and its subsequent amendments;

(2) the open records law, Chapter 424, Acts of the 63rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1973 (Article 6252-17a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), and its subsequent amendments; and

(3) the Administrative Procedure and Texas Register Act (Article 6252-13a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) and its subsequent amendments.

Sec. 71.004. *POWERS AND DUTIES.* (a) The commission shall develop a comprehensive proposal to improve and coordinate public programs for children and to achieve the goals listed in this section for education, health care, juvenile justice, and family services.

(b) In education, the commission's goals are to:

- (1) reduce the rate of school dropouts;
- (2) increase parental involvement and accountability;
- (3) review disciplinary procedures; and
- (4) ensure that all children are prepared to enter the work force on graduation.

(c) In health care, the commission's goal is to increase access for all children to basic health care, including preventive care, prenatal care, immunization, and mental health

services. The commission shall not study, offer proposals, or otherwise pursue the adoption of policies or strategies related to sex education or dissemination of or instruction concerning contraceptives or contraceptive methods.

(d) In juvenile justice, the commission's goals are to:

(1) improve services for predelinquent children and children at risk of becoming delinquent or in need of supervision;

(2) provide effective supervision, treatment, and aftercare services for children in the juvenile justice system; and

(3) establish a mechanism for cooperation among agencies that deal with juvenile crime.

(e) In family services, the commission's goals are to:

(1) improve prevention, detection, and treatment of the abuse or neglect of children;

(2) review the rules governing foster care for children; and

(3) recommend ways to provide child care for all children of working parents.

(f) For each item in the proposal that is developed as required by Subsection (a) and for each goal found in Subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), the commission shall study and include comprehensive information relating to the impact of the proposals on the parent-child relationship and include proposals that strengthen the family unit.

(g) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 71.005. REIMBURSEMENT. A member of the commission is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing his or her official duties.

Sec. 71.006. STAFF; CONTRACTS. (a) The commission may hire staff as needed for research and other support services.

(b) The commission may contract with agencies of the state or private contractors for research and other support services.

Sec. 71.007. SUBMISSION. The commission shall submit the commission's proposal described by Section 71.003 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature not later than December 1, 1994.

Sec. 71.008. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING. The commission shall file with the governor, the presiding officer of each house of the legislature, and the legislature a complete and detailed written report accounting for all funds received and disbursed by the commission not later than December 15, 1994.

Sec. 71.009. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER. (a) The commission is abolished on September 1, 1995.

(b) This chapter expires on September 1, 1995.

SECTION 2. The governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall make their appointments to the Texas Commission on Children and Youth not later than the 31st day after the effective date of this Act.

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 March 2, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 25, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendments, on May 21, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 12, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.