

CHAPTER 261

S.B. No. 957

AN ACT

relating to the authority of commissioners courts in certain counties to provide child-care services to benefit the employees and jurors of the counties and to set fees for the services.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

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(1) "Child-care services" means the care, training, education, custody, treatment, and supervision of children for all or part of a day.

(2) "County juror" means a juror in a justice, county, or district court in a county.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM. A commissioners court of a county with a population of 500,000 or more, according to the most recent federal census, may establish a program by which the county provides child-care services to benefit county employees, county jurors, and their children.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBLE CHILDREN. Any child of a county employee or county juror, including a stepchild, foster child, or other child in the possession of the employee or juror under a court order, is eligible to participate in the child-care program subject to the limitations imposed under Section 5 of this Act.

SECTION 4. SPACE FOR PROGRAM. The commissioners court may set aside space in an existing county facility or may acquire by lease or purchase additional space for the child-care program.

SECTION 5. SCOPE OF PROGRAM. (a) The commissioners court may determine its own guidelines about the scope of the child-care program. The guidelines must include provisions relating to fees for participation in the program, ages of children who may participate, services to be available, times services are available, and related matters.

(b) The commissioners court shall appoint a board of county employees to review the program and guidelines and to make recommendations to the court about the program.

SECTION 6. STAFF. (a) The commissioners court may employ a child-care administrator to supervise the administration of the program and, with the approval of the court, to employ the necessary staff to administer the program.

(b) Instead of exercising the authority given by Subsection (a) of this section, the commissioners court may contract for the child-care services.

SECTION 7. FEES. (a) The commissioners court may set fees to be charged for the child-care services. A fee may be set at any amount not to exceed the actual cost of providing the service. If the amount of a fee is less than the cost of providing the service, the difference between the two amounts is considered to be part of the compensation of the county employee or county juror.

(b) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the county.

SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. 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 6, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0. Passed the House on May 15, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved May 28, 1987.

Effective August 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.