By: Burkett H.B. No. 1549

## A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

- 2 relating to the provision of services by the Department of Family
- 3 and Protective Services, including child protective services and
- 4 prevention and early intervention services.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 6 SECTION 1. Article 49.10, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
- 7 amended by adding Subsection (i-1) to read as follows:
- 8 <u>(i-1)</u> Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, if the
- 9 <u>deceased was a child younger than six years of age whose death is</u>
- 10 determined under Section 264.514, Family Code, to be unexpected or
- 11 the result of abuse or neglect, a justice of the peace must order a
- 12 <u>complete autopsy of the deceased.</u>
- SECTION 2. Section 9(a), Article 49.25, Code of Criminal
- 14 Procedure, is amended to read as follows:
- 15 (a) If the cause of death shall be determined beyond a
- 16 reasonable doubt as a result of the investigation, the medical
- 17 examiner shall file a report thereof setting forth specifically the
- 18 cause of death with the district attorney or criminal district
- 19 attorney, or in a county in which there is no district attorney or
- 20 criminal district attorney with the county attorney, of the county
- 21 in which the death occurred. If in the opinion of the medical
- 22 examiner an autopsy is necessary, or if such is requested by the
- 23 district attorney or criminal district attorney, or county attorney
- 24 where there is no district attorney or criminal district attorney,

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the autopsy shall be immediately performed by the medical examiner 1 or a duly authorized deputy. In those cases where a complete 2 3 autopsy is deemed unnecessary by the medical examiner to ascertain the cause of death, the medical examiner may perform a limited 4 5 autopsy involving the taking of blood samples or any other samples of body fluids, tissues or organs, in order to ascertain the cause 6 of death or whether a crime has been committed. If the deceased was 7 8 a child younger than six years of age and the death is determined under Section 264.514, Family Code, to be unexpected or the result 9 of abuse or neglect, the medical examiner shall perform a complete 10 autopsy. In the case of a body of a human being whose identity is 11 12 unknown, the medical examiner may authorize such investigative and laboratory tests and processes as are required to determine its 13 14 identity as well as the cause of death. In performing an autopsy 15 the medical examiner or authorized deputy may use the facilities of any city or county hospital within the county or such other 16 17 facilities as are made available. Upon completion of the autopsy, the medical examiner shall file a report setting forth the findings 18 in detail with the office of the district attorney or criminal 19 district attorney of the county, or if there is no district attorney 20 or criminal district attorney, with the county attorney of the 21 22 county.

- 23 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 261, Family Code, is 24 amended by adding Section 261.2031 to read as follows:
- 25 <u>Sec. 261.2031. DESIGNATED CHILD FATALITY INVESTIGATION</u>
  26 <u>CASEWORKERS. The department shall designate caseworkers or create</u>
  27 a specialized unit of department employees to conduct

- 1 investigations involving child fatalities. Caseworkers or
- 2 employees designated for child fatality investigations shall be
- 3 assigned based on experience and length of time working for the
- 4 department.
- 5 SECTION 4. Section 261.301, Family Code, is amended by
- 6 adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:
- 7 (j) In geographic areas with demonstrated need, the
- 8 department shall designate employees to serve specifically as
- 9 investigators and responders for after-hours reports of child abuse
- 10 or neglect.
- SECTION 5. Section 264.107, Family Code, is amended by
- 12 adding Subsection (b-2) to read as follows:
- 13 (b-2) The department shall, subject to the availability of
- 14 funds, use a web-based system to assist the department in making the
- 15 best placement decision for a child in foster care. The system must:
- 16 (1) recommend a level of care for the child;
- 17 (2) suggest placements based on the child's needs;
- 18 (3) display the proximity of potential providers to
- 19 the child's home;
- 20 (4) incorporate foster care provider preferences;
- 21 (5) provide access to the foster care provider's
- 22 history in providing safe and stable placements for children; and
- 23 (6) include any other provider information the
- 24 department determines to be relevant.
- 25 SECTION 6. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
- 26 amended by adding Section 264.1131 to read as follows:
- Sec. 264.1131. FOSTER CARE PROVIDER RECRUITMENT PLAN. In

- 1 addition to foster parent recruitment from faith-based
- 2 organizations under Section 264.113, the department shall, subject
- 3 to the availability of funds, collaborate with current foster and
- 4 adoptive parents to develop and implement a foster care provider
- 5 recruitment plan. The plan must:
- 6 (1) identify geographic areas in the state where there
- 7 <u>is a need for foster care providers using risk stratification</u>
- 8 modeling or risk assessments of geographic areas with high
- 9 occurrences of child abuse and neglect or child fatalities;
- 10 (2) use data analysis, social media, partnerships with
- 11 <u>faith-based</u> and volunteer organizations, and other strategies for
- 12 recruitment, including targeted and child-focused recruitment;
- 13 (3) increase the number of available foster care
- 14 providers for children with high needs and expand the use of
- 15 therapeutic or treatment foster care for children in those
- 16 placements;
- 17 (4) require the provision of:
- (A) quality customer service to prospective and
- 19 current foster and adoptive parents; and
- 20 (B) assistance to prospective foster parents
- 21 with the certification and placement process;
- (5) include strategies for increasing the number of
- 23 <u>kinship providers;</u>
- 24 (6) include strategies to ensure that children in
- 25 foster care do not have to transfer schools after entering foster
- 26 care, unless transferring is in the child's best interest; and
- 27 (7) include programs to support foster and adoptive

- 1 families, including programs that provide training, respite care,
- 2 and peer assistance.
- 3 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
- 4 amended by adding Section 264.2012 to read as follows:
- 5 Sec. 264.2012. FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES. The
- 6 department shall implement an evidence-based program that provides
- 7 <u>frequent in-home visits with families who have a history of child</u>
- 8 abuse or neglect or who display risk factors for child abuse or
- 9 neglect with the goal of improving family preservation and family
- 10 reunification. The program must contain guidelines for the
- 11 frequency of monthly contact by the department with the family,
- 12 based on the risk factors for child abuse and neglect in each case.
- 13 SECTION 8. Sections 264.502(a) and (b), Family Code, are
- 14 amended to read as follows:
- 15 (a) The child fatality review team committee is composed of:
- 16 (1) a person appointed by and representing the state
- 17 registrar of vital statistics;
- 18 (2) a person appointed by and representing the
- 19 commissioner of the department;
- 20 (3) a person appointed by and representing the Title V
- 21 director of the Department of State Health Services; [and]
- 22 (4) <u>a person appointed by and representing the speaker</u>
- 23 of the house of representatives;
- (5) a person appointed by and representing the
- 25 lieutenant governor;
- 26 (6) a person appointed by and representing the
- 27 governor; and

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individuals selected under Subsection (b).
 1
               (7)
               The members of the committee who serve under Subsections
2
          (b)
    (a)(1) through (6) (3) shall select the following additional
 3
4
    committee members:
5
               (1) a criminal prosecutor involved in prosecuting
   crimes against children;
6
7
               (2)
                    a sheriff;
8
               (3)
                    a justice of the peace;
9
               (4) a medical examiner;
               (5) a police chief;
10
                    a pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and
11
               (6)
   treating child abuse and neglect;
12
               (7) a child educator;
13
14
               (8)
                    a child mental health provider;
15
               (9)
                    a public health professional;
16
               (10) a child protective services specialist;
17
               (11)
                     a sudden infant death syndrome family service
   provider;
18
               (12)
19
                     a neonatologist;
20
               (13)
                     a child advocate;
21
               (14)
                     a chief juvenile probation officer;
22
                     a child abuse prevention specialist;
               (15)
                     a representative of the Department of Public
23
               (16)
24
   Safety;
25
               (17)
                     a representative of the Texas Department of
26
   Transportation;
                     an emergency medical services provider; and
27
               (18)
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- 1 (19) a provider of services to, or an advocate for,
- 2 victims of family violence.
- 3 SECTION 9. Section 264.503, Family Code, is amended by
- 4 amending Subsections (d) and (e) and adding Subsection (h) to read
- 5 as follows:
- 6 (d) The Department of State Health Services shall:
- 7 (1) recognize the creation and participation of review
- 8 teams;
- 9 (2) promote and coordinate training to assist the
- 10 review teams in carrying out their duties;
- 11 (3) assist the committee in developing model protocols
- 12 for:
- 13 (A) the reporting and investigating of child
- 14 fatalities for law enforcement agencies, child protective
- 15 services, justices of the peace and medical examiners, and other
- 16 professionals involved in the investigations of child deaths;
- 17 (B) the collection of data regarding child
- 18 deaths; and
- 19 (C) the operation of the review teams;
- 20 (4) develop and implement procedures necessary for the
- 21 operation of the committee; [and]
- 22 (5) <u>develop and implement training for justices of the</u>
- 23 peace and medical examiners regarding inquests in child death
- 24 cases; and
- 25 (6) promote education of the public regarding the
- 26 incidence and causes of child deaths, the public role in preventing
- 27 child deaths, and specific steps the public can undertake to

- 1 prevent child deaths.
- 2 (e) In addition to the duties under Subsection (d), the
- 3 Department of State Health Services shall:
- 4 (1) collect data under this subchapter and coordinate
- 5 the collection of data under this subchapter with other data
- 6 collection activities; [and]
- 7 (2) perform annual statistical studies of the
- 8 incidence and causes of child fatalities using the data collected
- 9 under this subchapter; and
- 10 (3) evaluate the available child fatality data and use
- 11 the data to create public health strategies for the prevention of
- 12 child fatalities.
- (h) Each member of the committee must be a member of the
- 14 child fatality review team in the county where the committee member
- 15 <u>resides.</u>
- 16 SECTION 10. Subchapter F, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
- 17 amended by adding Sections 264.5031 and 264.5032 to read as
- 18 follows:
- 19 Sec. 264.5031. COLLECTION OF NEAR FATALITY DATA. (a) The
- 20 Department of State Health Services shall develop a definition for
- 21 the term "near fatality" to allow for statewide consistency in
- 22 <u>child fatality investigations.</u>
- 23 <u>(b) The Department of State Health Services shall include</u>
- 24 near fatality child abuse or neglect cases in the child fatality
- 25 case database, for cases in which child abuse or neglect is
- 26 determined to have been the cause of the near fatality. The
- 27 Department of State Health Services must also develop a data

1 collection strategy for near fatality child abuse or neglect cases. Sec. 264.5032. TRACKING OF CHILD FATALITY AND NEAR FATALITY 2 DATA. (a) The department shall track and analyze data relating to 3 child fatality and near fatality cases resulting from child abuse 4 5 or neglect and produce a report containing the following 6 information: 7 (1) any prior contact the department had with the 8 child's family and the manner in which the case was disposed, including cases in which the department made the following 9 10 dispositions: (A) priority none or administrative closure; 11 12 (B) call screened out; (C) alternative <u>or differential response</u> 13 provided; 14 15 (D) unable to complete the investigation; 16 (E) unable to determine whether abuse or neglect 17 occurred; 18 (F) reason to believe abuse or neglect occurred; 19 or (G) child removed and placed into substitute 20 21 care; 22 (2) for any case investigated by the department involving the child or the child's family: 23 24 (A) the number of caseworkers assigned to the case before the fatality or near fatality occurred; 25 26 (B) the level of education for each caseworker

assigned to the case and the caseworker's employment tenure; and

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1	(C) the caseworker's caseload at the time the
2	case was opened and at the time the case was closed;
3	(3) for any case in which the department investigation
4	concluded that there was reason to believe that abuse or neglect
5	occurred, and the family was referred to family-based safety
6	services:
7	(A) the safety plan provided to the family;
8	(B) the services offered to the family; and
9	(C) the level of compliance with the safety plan
10	or completion of the services by the family;
11	(4) the number of contacts the department made with
12	children and families in family-based safety services cases; and
13	(5) the initial and attempted contacts the department
14	made with child abuse and neglect victims.
15	(b) The department shall make the data collected under
16	Subsection (a) available to allow research into the determining
17	factors related to child abuse fatalities, with the purpose of:
18	(1) reducing child fatalities or near fatalities and
19	repeated referrals of a child or family to the department; and
20	(2) predicting future occurrences of child fatalities
21	and near fatalities to improve prevention and early intervention
22	strategies.
23	SECTION 11. Sections 264.505(a) and (c), Family Code, are
24	amended to read as follows:
25	(a) A multidisciplinary and multiagency child fatality
26	review team may be established for a county to review child deaths

in that county. A [review team for a] county [with a population of

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- 1 less than 50,000] may join with an adjacent county or counties to
- 2 establish a combined review team.
- 3 (c) A review team <u>must reflect the diversity of the county's</u>
- 4 population and may include:
- 5 (1) a criminal prosecutor involved in prosecuting
- 6 crimes against children;
- 7 (2) a sheriff;
- 8 (3) a justice of the peace or medical examiner;
- 9 (4) a police chief;
- 10 (5) a pediatrician experienced in diagnosing and
- 11 treating child abuse and neglect;
- 12 (6) a child educator;
- 13 (7) a child mental health provider;
- 14 (8) a public health professional;
- 15 (9) a child protective services specialist;
- 16 (10) a sudden infant death syndrome family service
- 17 provider;
- 18 (11) a neonatologist;
- 19 (12) a child advocate;
- 20 (13) a chief juvenile probation officer; and
- 21 (14) a child abuse prevention specialist.
- SECTION 12. Section 264.506(b), Family Code, is amended to
- 23 read as follows:
- 24 (b) To achieve its purpose, a review team shall:
- 25 (1) adapt and implement, according to local needs and
- 26 resources, the model protocols developed by the department and the
- 27 committee;

- 1 (2) meet on a regular basis to review child fatality
- 2 cases and recommend methods to improve coordination of services and
- 3 investigations between agencies that are represented on the team;
- 4 (3) collect and maintain data as required by the
- 5 committee; [and]
- 6 (4) review and analyze the collected data to identify
- 7 any demographic trends in child fatality cases, including whether
- 8 there is a disproportionate number of child fatalities in a
- 9 particular population group or geographic area; and
- 10 <u>(5)</u> submit to the vital statistics unit data reports
- 11 on deaths reviewed as specified by the committee.
- 12 SECTION 13. Section 264.509, Family Code, is amended by
- 13 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:
- 14 (b-1) The Department of State Health Services shall provide
- 15 <u>a review team with electronic access to the preliminary death</u>
- 16 certificate for a deceased child.
- 17 SECTION 14. (a) Section 264.514, Family Code, is amended by
- 18 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as
- 19 follows:
- 20 (a-1) The commissioners court of a county shall adopt
- 21 regulations relating to the timeliness for conducting an inquest
- 22 <u>into the death of a child. The regulations adopted under this</u>
- 23 subsection must be as stringent as the standards issued by the
- 24 National Association of Medical Examiners unless the commissioners
- 25 court determines that it would be cost prohibitive for the county to
- 26 comply with those standards.
- 27 (b) The medical examiner or justice of the peace shall

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- 1 immediately notify an appropriate local law enforcement agency if
- 2 the medical examiner or justice of the peace determines that the
- 3 death is unexpected or the result of abuse or neglect, and that
- 4 agency shall investigate the child's death. The medical examiner or
- 5 justice of the peace shall notify the appropriate county child
- 6 fatality review team of the child's death not later than the 120th
- 7 day after the date the death is reported.
- 8 (b) A county must attempt to implement the timeliness
- 9 standards for inquests as described by Section 264.514(a-1), Family
- 10 Code, as added by this Act, as soon as possible after the effective
- 11 date of this Act.
- 12 SECTION 15. Section 264.755, Family Code, is amended by
- 13 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:
- 14 (b-1) The executive commissioner by rule may set the maximum
- 15 monetary payment amount that may, subject to an appropriation of
- 16 funds for that purpose, be provided to a relative or designated
- 17 caregiver under this section in an amount not to exceed the amount
- 18 that the department would pay to a licensed foster care provider for
- 19 the care of the child.
- 20 SECTION 16. Section 264.903, Family Code, is amended by
- 21 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:
- 22 <u>(a-1)</u> The department shall expedite the evaluation of a
- 23 potential caregiver under this section to ensure that the child is
- 24 placed with a caregiver who has the ability to protect the child
- 25 from the alleged perpetrator of abuse or neglect against the child.
- SECTION 17. (a) Subchapter L, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
- 27 amended by adding Section 264.907 to read as follows:

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- 1 Sec. 264.907. CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. (a) The
- 2 department may, subject to the availability of funds, enter into a
- 3 caregiver assistance agreement with a caregiver to provide monetary
- 4 assistance and additional support services to the caregiver. The
- 5 monetary assistance and support services must be based on the
- 6 caregiver's and child's needs, as determined by rules adopted by the
- 7 <u>executive commissioner.</u>
- 8 (b) The department may agree to provide to a caregiver in an
- 9 agreement under this section any monetary assistance or additional
- 10 support services that may be provided in a caregiver assistance
- 11 agreement under Section 264.755.
- 12 (b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
- 13 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement
- 14 Section 264.907, Family Code, as added by this Act, not later than
- 15 December 1, 2017.
- SECTION 18. Section 265.005, Family Code, is amended by
- 17 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as
- 18 follows:
- 19 (b) A strategic plan required under this section must:
- 20 (1) identify methods to leverage other sources of
- 21 funding or provide support for existing community-based prevention
- 22 efforts;
- 23 (2) include a needs assessment that identifies
- 24 programs to best target the needs of the highest risk populations
- 25 and geographic areas;
- 26 (3) identify the goals and priorities for the
- 27 department's overall prevention efforts;

- 1 (4) report the results of previous prevention efforts
- 2 using available information in the plan;
- 3 (5) identify additional methods of measuring program
- 4 effectiveness and results or outcomes;
- 5 (6) identify methods to collaborate with other state
- 6 agencies on prevention efforts; [and]
- 7 (7) identify specific strategies to implement the plan
- 8 and to develop measures for reporting on the overall progress
- 9 toward the plan's goals; and
- 10 (8) include annual targets that increase each year for
- 11 the number of families receiving prevention and early intervention
- 12 services, with the initial goal of providing services to 50 percent
- 13 of the highest risk families that are eligible to receive services
- 14 through home visiting and community-based programs financed with
- 15 <u>federal</u>, state, local, or private resources.
- (f) In this section, "highest risk family" means a family
- 17 that has children five years of age or younger and whose family
- 18 income is at or below 50 percent of the federal poverty level.
- 19 SECTION 19. Subchapter A, Chapter 265, Family Code, is
- 20 amended by adding Sections 265.007 and 265.008 to read as follows:
- Sec. 265.007. IMPROVING PROVISION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY
- 22 INTERVENTION SERVICES. To improve the effectiveness and delivery
- 23 of prevention and early intervention services, the department
- 24 shall:
- 25 (1) use a geographic focus to ensure that prevention
- 26 and early intervention services are provided to families with the
- 27 greatest need;

1	(2) identify the geographic areas that have the
2	highest need for prevention and early intervention services using:
3	(A) verified external risk terrain modeling; or
4	(B) geographic risk assessments that use risk
5	indicators of child abuse or neglect and child abuse fatalities;
6	(3) identify geographic areas that have a high need
7	for prevention and early intervention services but do not have
8	prevention and early intervention services available in the area or
9	have only unevaluated prevention and early intervention services
10	available in the area; and
11	(4) develop strategies for community partners to:
12	(A) improve the early recognition of child abuse
13	or neglect;
14	(B) improve the reporting of child abuse and
15	neglect; and
16	(C) prevent child fatalities.
17	Sec. 265.008. EVALUATION OF PREVENTION AND EARLY
18	INTERVENTION SERVICES. (a) The department and the Texas Higher
19	Education Coordinating Board shall enter into agreements with
20	institutions of higher education to conduct efficacy reviews of any
21	prevention and early intervention services provided under this
22	chapter that have not previously been evaluated for effectiveness
23	in a research evaluation that meets the standards described by
24	Subsection (b). The efficacy review shall include, when possible, a
25	cost-benefit analysis of the program to the state.
26	(b) A prevention and early intervention services program is
7	considered to have been previously evaluated if it has been

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- 1 evaluated by at least one rigorous randomized controlled research
- 2 trial across heterogeneous populations or communities, the results
- 3 of at least one of which has been published in a peer-reviewed
- 4 journal.
- 5 (c) The department is not required to enter into an
- 6 agreement to conduct a program efficacy evaluation under this
- 7 <u>section unless:</u>
- 8 <u>(1) the department is specifically appropriated money</u>
- 9 for the purposes of this section; or
- 10 (2) the agreement with the institution of higher
- 11 education is cost neutral.
- 12 SECTION 20. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,
- 13 is amended by adding Section 40.038 to read as follows:
- 14 Sec. 40.038. SECONDARY TRAUMA SUPPORT FOR CASEWORKERS. (a)
- 15 In this section, "secondary trauma" means trauma incurred as a
- 16 consequence of a person's exposure to acute or chronic trauma.
- 17 (b) The department shall develop and make available a
- 18 program to provide ongoing support to caseworkers who experience
- 19 secondary trauma resulting from exposure to trauma in the course of
- 20 the caseworker's employment. The program must include critical
- 21 <u>incident stress debriefing</u>. The department may not require that a
- 22 caseworker participate in the program.
- SECTION 21. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,
- 24 is amended by adding Section 40.0529 to read as follows:
- Sec. 40.0529. CASELOAD MANAGEMENT. (a) Subject to a
- 26 specific appropriation for that purpose, the department shall
- 27 develop and implement a caseload management system for child

- 1 protective services caseworkers and managers that:
- 2 (1) ensures equity in the distribution of workload,
- 3 based on the complexity of each case;
- 4 (2) calculates caseloads based on the number of
- 5 individual caseworkers who are available to handle cases;
- 6 (3) includes geographic case assignment in areas with
- 7 concentrated high risk populations, to ensure that an adequate
- 8 <u>number of caseworkers and managers with expertise and specialized</u>
- 9 training are available;
- 10 (4) includes a plan to deploy master investigators in
- 11 anticipation of emergency shortages of personnel; and
- 12 (5) anticipates vacancies in caseworker positions in
- 13 areas of the state with high caseworker turnover to ensure the
- 14 timely hiring of new caseworkers in those areas.
- 15 (b) In calculating the caseworker caseload under Subsection
- 16 (a)(2), the department:
- 17 (1) may not count caseworkers who are on leave for four
- 18 weeks or more as available caseworkers;
- 19 (2) may not create fictive caseworkers to compensate
- 20 for overtime hours worked by caseworkers; and
- 21 (3) shall only count caseworkers who are on reduced
- 22 caseloads at a value of .3 or less.
- SECTION 22. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,
- 24 is amended by adding Section 40.078 to read as follows:
- Sec. 40.078. PREVENTION ADVISORY BOARD. (a) In this
- 26 section, "board" means the Prevention Advisory Board.
- 27 (b) The board is established in the department to promote

- 1 public awareness and make recommendations to the Health and Human
- 2 Services Commission, the Department of State Health Services, the
- 3 department, the governor, and the legislature for changes to law,
- 4 policy, and practices regarding:
- 5 (1) the prevention of child abuse and neglect;
- 6 (2) the development of a state strategy to promote
- 7 child safety and well-being using enhanced data collection and
- 8 analysis; and
- 9 (3) the expansion of evidence-based and promising
- 10 practice programs, as those terms are described by Sections
- 11 531.983(b) and (c), Government Code.
- 12 (c) The board is composed of not more than 25 members,
- 13 appointed as follows:
- 14 (1) one member appointed by the governor from the
- 15 governor's staff;
- 16 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor
- 17 from the lieutenant governor's staff;
- 18 (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 19 representatives from the speaker's staff;
- 20 (4) one staff member from the Senate Health and Human
- 21 <u>Services Committee;</u>
- (5) one staff member from the House Public Health
- 23 <u>Committee</u>; and
- 24 (6) any remaining members appointed by the
- 25 commissioner.
- 26 (d) The members appointed under Subsections (c)(1) through
- 27 (5) serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the board.

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- 1 (e) In appointing members to the board, the commissioner
- 2 shall attempt to select individuals whose qualifications are not
- 3 already represented by existing members of the board. Board
- 4 members must include:
- 5 (1) a chair of a child fatality review team committee;
- 6 (2) a pediatrician;
- 7 <u>(3)</u> a judge;
- 8 (4) representatives of relevant state agencies;
- 9 (5) prosecutors who specialize in child abuse and
- 10 neglect;
- 11 (6) medical examiners;
- 12 (7) representatives of service providers to the
- 13 department; and
- 14 (8) policy experts in child abuse and neglect
- 15 prevention, community advocacy, or related fields.
- 16 (f) The board shall select a chair from among its members
- 17 and shall meet at least quarterly, with additional meetings called
- 18 by the chair as necessary.
- 19 (g) A vacancy on the board shall be filled in the same manner
- 20 as the original appointment.
- 21 (h) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation or
- 22 reimbursement of expenses incurred in performing board duties.
- 23 <u>(i) The board may take testimony and receive evidence that</u>
- 24 the board considers necessary to carry out the duties of the board.
- 25 (j) In developing the recommendations under Subsection (b),
- 26 the board shall collaborate with the prevention and early
- 27 intervention services division of the department to:

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- 1 (1) use a public health approach by applying
- 2 population-based, universal, and targeted strategies for
- 3 prevention;
- 4 (2) consider the evidence-based and promising
- 5 practice programs for home visiting under Section 531.983,
- 6 Government Code, and parent education under Section 265.101, Family
- 7 Code, as added by Chapter 1257 (H.B. 2630), Acts of the 84th
- 8 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, in structuring accountability
- 9 and evidence-based measures for child abuse fatality prevention
- 10 programming;
- 11 (3) maximize funding sources to expand prevention
- 12 programs, including federal and local government funds and private
- 13 funds; and
- 14 (4) research and make recommendations regarding the
- 15 training of external stakeholders, including the expansion of
- 16 mandated training for medical professionals, child care workers,
- 17 educators, and higher education professionals with access to
- 18 minors, to improve the identification, recognition, reporting, and
- 19 prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- 20 (k) The board shall collaborate with the department and the
- 21 Department of State Health Services to develop and maintain a
- 22 database of the most effective state and national evidence-based or
- 23 promising practice programs that address child abuse and neglect
- 24 and the prevention of child abuse and neglect fatalities. The
- 25 database shall include the cost per family and a cost-benefit
- 26 analysis for each program.
- 27 SECTION 23. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.