



Amendment Floor Report for HB 39- Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Author	Analysis	Recommendation
Stickland P.3 850640	This amendment strikes the requirements that the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) ensures a child receives medical and mental health screenings within three days of entering conservatorship and seven days for rural communities. It replaces it with languages that any emergency medical care for a child in conservatorship should be authorized by the state to do so. This will potentially harm children who need quick medical or mental health attention, or medical and mental health screenings to build their case.	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Zedler P. 3 850637	This prohibits a physician or other health care providers conducting the child's initial medical examination upon entering state conservatorship from administering a vaccination. The bill does not explicitly state that vaccinations would be administer, it would be rare that a physician while conducting an examination vaccinate a child unless deemed necessary.	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Walle P.4-5 850642	This amendment requires DFPS along with the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to conduct a study on reasonable caseworker caseload goals. The goals to be measured are laid out in the amendment. This may help to reduce caseworker turnover rate by understanding the necessary time and effort put into a caseload, and help to manage the large and difficult caseloads caseworkers take on.	<u>Favorable</u>
Sanford P.6-9 850617	This amendment implements a program for voluntary temporary caregivers through the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Texas has a foster care capacity crisis and children who enter into state conservatorship may not initially have a placement. It has been found that due to this lack of immediate placement has led to children sleeping in their case worker offices. It requires DFPS to create a program to allow families to volunteer to be temporary caregivers; the amendment lays out guidelines for an individual or family to open their home as a temporary caregiver. The child would remain with them for 14 days, should it be in the best interest for the child to extend their time with the temporary caregiver they can do so upon the provisions laid out in the bill. This will potentially be an effective step in eliminating the practice of children sleeping in their case worker's office.	<u>Will of the House</u>
White P.10 850633	This amendment increases the statute for which a court may order to participate in programs or services. It would require that if the court orders removal of the child then the department may request the court to order such services. It has been found that courts order such services to parents, even when there has been no instances of abuse or neglect found. The court still may deem it necessary to address certain patterns or behaviors that may potentially put the child at risk of harm. Raising the bar for this would take away the court's ability to make this decision and ultimately could be detrimental to the child.	<u>Unfavorable</u>

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Walle P.11-12 850644	This amendment requires that upon availability of appropriated funds DFPS, within reason, shall work towards implementing caseload goals for certain case workers. The caseload limits are laid out in the amendment. This also establishes processing goals for the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Hotline, requiring DFPS to work towards average hold time limits abandonment rates. Allowing for individuals who choose to report a case of abuse, neglect or exploitation to not be discouraged.	<u>Favorable</u>
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