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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Weekly Newsletter
March 2, 2015 Hearing

Bills Considered by Chairman Raymond's Committee

HB 550: Updating Code Relating to the State's Health and Human Services

Author: Rep. Four Price (Health & Human Services Clarification Bill)

HB 550 clarifies and updates statutes in order to allow lawmakers to focus on making vital policy changes that are needed to improve the delivery of Texas' health and human services. This bill amends codes to conform to previously enacted legislation.



Currently, numerous Family, Government, Health and Safety, Human Resources and Occupation Codes include out of date and insensitive language. Additionally, current codes do not accurately reflect the administrative duties of the health and human services executive commissioner and the rulemaking processes of the health and human services agencies. HB 550 modifies these codes to ensure they reflect current legislation.

HB 418: Protecting Victims of Child Trafficking
Author: Rep. Gene Wu

The purpose of HB 418 is to improve protections for child victims of human trafficking. Under current law, the Department of Child and Protective Services can take emergency possession of a child without a court order in certain limited situations where the child is facing imminent harm. Concerned parties assert that this authority does not extend to child victims of human or sex trafficking.

HB 418 proposes changing the Family Code to authorize the state to act quickly and take possession of a child victim of trafficking in order to provide the child with safe refuge and specialized services. Additionally, the bill would modify the Human Resources Code to authorize counties and cities to establish a foster home to provide a safe, separate environment tailored to the needs of children who are victims of child trafficking.



Bills Voted Out of Committee

HB 77: Relating to the study of the Dallas Men Against Abuse Program in order to determine if the program should be expanded statewide.

Authors: Rep. Mary Gonzalez, Rep. Rafael Anchía, Rep. Jeff Leach, Rep. Toni Rose, and Rep. Jason Villalba

[March 2, 2015 Human Services Committee Broadcast Archive](#)

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