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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Weekly Newsletter
March 9, 2015 Hearing

Bills Considered by Chairman Raymond's Committee

HB 781: Department of Family and Protective Services' Substitute Care Training
Author: Rep. Cindy Burkett and Rep. Elliot Naishtat

HB 781 would require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to evaluate the home screening, assessment, and training requirements used by substitute care providers. Substitute care refers to caregivers or organizations that provide temporary or permanent care on behalf of the state.

This bill would support the welfare of children receiving substitute care services by ensuring these caregivers are properly trained and monitored. Additionally, this bill would require the DFPS to publish the curriculum and models used to train substitute caregivers as well as require each substitute care provider to conduct at least 35 hours of training for caregivers.



HB 493: Prohibiting the Purchase of Energy Drinks under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Author: Rep. Terry Canales

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was created to provide millions of low-income individuals and families with nutritional assistance. Federal Food and Drug Administration guidelines are generally used to determine an item's eligibility under the program, but certain ambiguities in federal regulations allow individuals to purchase energy drinks with SNAP benefits. Industry experts have reported numerous health risks associated with consuming energy drinks, with side effects ranging from insomnia and irritability to irregular heartbeats and death. In the last decade, hospitals have seen an increase in emergency room visits related to energy drink consumption



HB 493 seeks to encourage families and individuals to make healthier choices by regulating the purchase of energy drinks under SNAP

HB 788: After-School Child-Care Licensing

Author: Rep. Rick Miller



HB 788 would require all public school affiliated child care facilities to be licensed by the state. Currently, these before and after school facilities under contract with educational institutions are exempt from obtaining a state license.

This bill would not require private schools to license their child care facilities. Additionally, this bill would raise the cost of the licensing fee from \$1 per child to \$2 per child.

Bills heard in committee this week were left pending by Chairman Raymond, allowing time for their authors to modify the language.

[March 9, 2015 Human Services Committee Broadcast Archive](#)

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