

## CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE LEGISLATION THAT PASSED IN THE 85<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

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### SYSTEMS CHANGE

Bill #	Main Author/Main Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 5	Frank / Schwertner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• governor appoints Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) commissioner for two years instead of that person serving at the pleasure of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) executive commissioner;</li> <li>• keeps investigation of abuse in foster care and of elderly and disabled at DFPS instead of moving it to HHSC; adds requirement of telling adoptive parent regarding right of child's sibling to sue for contact;</li> <li>• adds limited liability protection for Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) such as that available to charitable organizations;</li> <li>• removes certain functions from HHSC and puts in the hands of DFPS - this includes development of rules about adoptions subsidies and pre and post placement parts of adoption evaluation, maintaining central registry, handling child fatalities, investigations, minimum standards, child earnings, release of records, notification rules, foster care payments, reporting on children in substitute care, in-home and community based services, Children's Advocacy Center and CASA contracts, Permanency Care Assistance and Relative and Other Designated Caregiver programs, schedule for permanency planning; planning of medical service delivery system (with provision of medical services still responsibility of HHSC); maintaining and posting searchable database of suspensions &amp; revocations of family homes;</li> <li>• establishes divisions of DFPS to include: investigations, consolidated data division, legal division, operations and financial management/accounting;</li> <li>• reconstitutes DFPS council</li> </ul>
HB 249	Hernandez / Van Taylor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adds forcing/coercing a child into marriage to definition of abuse;</li> <li>• adds to definition of neglect act or omission by an employee, volunteer or other individual working in a facility or program. This includes failure to comply with service plan/treatment plan which results or may result in substantial emotional harm or physical injury/death of a child served by that program/facility;</li> <li>• a person who is a volunteer, employee or other person working there is also added to the definition of person responsible for a child's care, custody or control;</li> <li>• investigations of maltreatment in care remain with DFPS instead of being transferred to HHSC;</li> <li>• requires creation of a Case Management Vendor Quality Oversight and Assurance Division as well as an Office of Data Analytics that deals with data on employees and workplace trends;</li> <li>• requires DFPS to develop standardized policies between CPS and Child Care Licensing (CCL) child abuse investigations;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Main Author/Main Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adds to DFPS strategic plan the goal of ending child maltreatment of kids in foster care and increasing the capacity of foster, relative or kinship placements;</li> <li>• requires DFPS to contract with an outside vendor to develop performance metrics for Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) and post adopt - reports on meeting metrics to be submitted every quarter;</li> <li>• requires investigations of child maltreatment in foster care to be done by CPS versus CCL</li> </ul>
HB 1542	Price / Birdwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• least restrictive placement defined as most family like in comparison to all other available placements;</li> <li>• for a child six or older who cannot be placed with a relative, a foster or cottage home is considered least restrictive;</li> <li>• child under six can only be placed in a cottage home if DFPS determines it is in child's best interest;</li> <li>• in selecting placement DFPS shall consider: best interest, least restrictive, closest in geographic proximity to child's home, most able to meet child's identified needs and any express interests of the child when developmentally appropriate;</li> <li>• if DFPS has formal Department of Health and Human Services determination (Child and Family Services Review) that implementing this law will lead to a reduction in IV-E or related federal funds then DFPS may not implement this act</li> </ul>
SB 213	Menendez / Rodriguez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• moves the Office of Consumer Affairs (DFPS ombudsman) out from DFPS and administratively attaches it to HHSC;</li> <li>• requires governor to appoint the ombudsman;</li> <li>• does not allow foster care ombudsman to use DFPS name or logo on material that is distributed;</li> <li>• establishes conflict of interest provision that does not allow ombudsman to be: person employed by state agency or person's spouse, anyone who owns or controls interest in a business entity or other organization receiving funds from DFPS or someone required to register as a lobbyist;</li> <li>• expands outreach plan to family members, caretakers etc.;</li> <li>• sets up foster care ombudsman as a division of the DFPS ombudsman;</li> <li>• requires yearly ombudsman report to be submitted to governor, Lt. governor, and standing committees of the legislature</li> </ul>

#### OMNIBUS

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
SB 11	Schwertner / Frank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• includes family violence as part of child maltreatment definition;</li> <li>• adds to duties of Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) and Attorney Ad Litem (AAL) ascertaining if a child who is at least 16 years old, has received personal documents such as SS card;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires DFPS to ensure that a child placing agency (CPA), SSCC or other person placing a child for adoption has a copy of any portion of the Health Social Genetic Educational History (HSGEH) report;</li> <li>• requires that prospective adoptive parents be allowed to view the HSGEH report and any other info on the child including whether mother drank during pregnancy and if child was diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;</li> <li>• CPA/SSCC must provide prospective adoptive parent with access to research regarding underlying health and trauma issues that could impact child's development;</li> <li>• adds to definition of abuse forcing/coercing child into marriage and exploitation as improper use of child or child's resources by employee, volunteer or other individual working in a facility or program; neglect also includes acts by these individuals and they are part of definition of person who has care, custody or control of a child;</li> <li>• requires tracking of reports involving the same child even if resided in other households and by different alleged perpetrator; requires grouping reports of multiple children in the same household;</li> <li>• requires automatic dismissal, without court order after 1yr if court has not commenced the trial or granted an extension;</li> <li>• 24hrs after change in placement the managed care organization (MCO) must be notified and they shall give notice to the primary care physician (PCP) before end of 2nd business day;</li> <li>• children who remain in conservatorship for more than 3 days and are removed due to sexual abuse, physical neglect or obvious physical injury or have a chronic medical condition or diagnosed mental illness receive an initial medical exam from a physician or other health care provider; vaccine other than tetanus may not be administered; guidelines should be developed for conducting the medical evaluation so they can be assessed for signs of child maltreatment, acute/chronic illness or mental health conditions, monitoring adjustment of being in care, having appropriate medical equipment and medications and caregivers having appropriate support and education; by 12/31/19 a report shall be submitted to the legislature;</li> <li>• DFPS shall conduct a study by 12/31/18 on developing a program to recruit and provide training for young adult caregivers (18-36) to provide foster care to children 14+;</li> <li>• Must have plan in non-SSCC area that addresses substitute care capacity needs in that region, done in cooperation with advocates, faith-based entities etc.; plan must be submitted to and approved by the commissioner and updated annually and published on DFPS webpage;</li> <li>• requires in non SSCC areas that DFPS collaborate with CPAs to implement a single child plan of service;</li> <li>• SSCC must be a nonprofit with mission focused on child welfare or a governmental entity; must consider if provider has experience serving in that area;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contracts must establish a timeline for implementation of case management, access to DFPS data, single process of training caregivers, performance review of contractor at 18mo - after this review the department will be able to impose financial penalties or awards;</li> <li>• hiring preference to former DFPS employees, continuing community engagement through a group of stakeholders, and requires the contractor to comply with any court order;</li> <li>• DFPS shall develop a formal readiness review process for the contractor (including plan for avoiding conflict of interest) that must be developed before DFPS expands outside of Region 3b, can start earlier if process points to readiness; no later than 12/31/19</li> <li>• DFPS must ID not more than 8 catchment areas in the state, evaluate implementation and performance in each area - DFPS must begin accepting applications by 9/1/17;</li> <li>• case management should be transferred to 3b;</li> <li>• must have initial case transfer planning team to deal with data and file transfers;</li> <li>• must form Data Access and Standards Governing Council to develop protocols for the electronic transfer of data from the SSCC to DFPS;</li> <li>• the SSCC must assume the statutory duties of DFPS;</li> <li>• DFPS shall continue to be represented by county attorneys;</li> <li>• SSCC must provide notice of contract termination 60 days in advance; DFPS may terminate 30 days in advance; a contingency plan should be developed in each catchment area involving a transfer plan which should be submitted each year and six months before the end of the contract period;</li> <li>• DFPS may review and approve/disapprove a contractor's recommendation with regards to a child's permanency goal, but they are not restricted in ability to maintain oversight and review of process to maintain state and federal requirements, an internal dispute resolution process should be developed by DFPS;</li> <li>• FBSS pilot program in two regions of the state with a single non-profit focused on child welfare or a governmental entity; outcomes to be measured include a decrease in recidivism, increase in protective factors etc.;</li> <li>• contractor must perform all statutory duties of DFPS and give preference to state employees who were in good standing, report as of 12/31/18;</li> <li>• in Community Based Foster Care areas, must have training of caseworkers in the human trafficking task force training;</li> <li>• requires governor to establish a grant program with faith-based communities (2yrs, not more than 300K);</li> <li>• subject to funds, HHSC shall enter into agreements with institutions of higher ed to conduct efficacy reviews of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) programs that have never been reviewed;</li> <li>• SSCC providing therapeutic foster care shall ensure child receives a comprehensive assessment at least once every 90 days;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCOs and CPAs must ensure children receive comprehensive health exam with financial penalties for failure to comply (starting 8/31/18);</li> <li>• MCO must notify specialists of placement change and coordinate transition of care;</li> <li>• DFPS must develop a records retention policy that improves case prioritization and routing cases to the appropriate DFPS division;</li> <li>• DFPS shall create a Case Management Vendor Quality and Oversight Assurance Division that will conduct assessments on fiscal and qualitative performance, dispute resolution and transfer of case management, HHSC shall contract with an outside vendor to develop a contract monitoring system and standards;</li> <li>• create an Office of Data Analytics related to management and employee data;</li> <li>• requires standardized policies for investigations of in and out of care maltreatment cases, requires child maltreatment investigation information to be provided to licensing;</li> <li>• requires HHSC, DFPS and an outside vendor to develop performance quality metrics for FBSS and post-adopt services; shall complete reports on data and submit to workers, management and families receiving services</li> </ul>
HB 7	Wu / Uresti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFPS and Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) shall develop protocols and coordinate for sharing information to identify and coordinate services;</li> <li>• DFPS and Judicial Commission shall review jury submission and make recommendations by 12/31/17 whether broad form or specific jury questions should be required;</li> <li>• expands who GAL should interview to educators and child welfare service providers, requires that GAL have access to child's placement and be consulted regarding child's placement; that they evaluate whether child service providers are protecting the child's best interest; receive notification to attend all meetings related to child's service plan and attend court ordered mediation regarding the child's case;</li> <li>• court orders may provide for continuing appointment of GAL or AAL for as long as child is in conservatorship;</li> <li>• if transfer order has been signed then DFPS may file the transfer order without further order from the court of continuing exclusive jurisdiction;</li> <li>• court may not make a finding and order termination of parental rights (TPR) based on evidence the parent homeschooled the child, is economically disadvantaged, has been charged with certain nonviolent misdemeanors (not including certain sexual offenses and assault) as well as administering low-THC cannabis to a child for which it has been prescribed or declined immunization for reasons of conscious including religious belief;</li> <li>• a court may not order TPR regarding a parent not following a court order if parent is able to show by preponderance of evidence that the parent was unable to but could not for a reason not attributable to parent's fault;</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires that suit to TPR can only be filed if clear and convincing grounds exist specifically for that parent;</li> <li>• DFPS may file solely or jointly for protective order of child if they have temporary managing conservatorship (TMC) and determine that the child is or has history of being a victim of maltreatment and is at risk of continued abuse or being taken illegally from the placement; DFPS must also certify they were unable to locate the child's parent or other respondent to the application and that the caregiver filing jointly hasn't abused the child;</li> <li>• if child is in immediate danger can file ex-parte;</li> <li>• at each court hearing the court shall review and include in a statement of findings whether there is the option of placing the child with family;</li> <li>• parent voluntary agreement to temporarily place a child in the managing conservatorship of DFPS is not an admission of guilt;</li> <li>• on request of parent attorney or AAL, DFPS before adversary hearing shall provide name of any person to be called as a witness, a copy of any offense report and copy of photos, videos or other recording to be presented as evidence;</li> <li>• to suit for taking possession adds requirement that there is a continuing danger to the physical health and safety of a child and allowing the child to remain in the home would be contrary to his/her welfare;</li> <li>• if non-indigent parent appears in opposition to the suit the court may postpone the full adversary hearing for 7 days to allow the parent to hire an attorney or to provide the parent's attorney time to respond to the petition;</li> <li>• at each permanency hearing the court shall make a finding on whether returning the child home is safe and appropriate;</li> <li>• notices to hearing must state that the individual may attend the hearings and be heard; the court shall determine if the child's caregiver is present and allow them to testify on information regarding the child;</li> <li>• dismissal of suit after one year without extension shall be done without additional court order. 60 days before automatic dismissal, the court shall notify all parties;</li> <li>• court can retain jurisdiction and not dismiss if DFPS or the court is on schedule to transition the child home to the parents while they complete their service plans;</li> <li>• requires the supreme court to establish civil and appellate procedures to address conflicts between filing of a motion for new trial and filing of an appeal of a final order and the period for a court reporter to submit the trial record to an appellate court;</li> <li>• ASAP but no later than 24hrs after a change in placement, DFPS shall give MCO notice who shall in turn give the PCP notice before end of the 2nd business day;</li> <li>• MCO must also notify any specialists and coordinate transition of care from old to new PCP;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if a court finds that a health care professional was consulted, but court declines to follow recommendation, they shall make findings as to why;</li> <li>• person under 18 can be admitted to an inpatient mental health facility pursuant to an application for court-ordered mental health services/emergency detention or order for protective custody if DFPS requests admission and physician states opinions and reasons for it. Young person must be a person with a mental illness or who demonstrates symptoms of Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and presents serious risk of harm to self/others. Admission shall be treated as a significant event and court shall be notified within 3 business days;</li> <li>• defines cottage home as sharing child-care administrator, homes all in same location, each home with 1 houseparent and not more than 6 children per home;</li> <li>• DFPS can determine by rule when it is appropriate to exclude children related to a caregiver when determining residential child care facility's total capacity;</li> <li>• CPA may issue a provisional verification to foster home;</li> <li>• requires Judicial Commission to study appointment and use of AAL;</li> <li>• requires converting group homes to agency foster homes (not more than 6 kids) or closing those homes (8-31-17)</li> </ul>
HB 1549	Burkett / Kolkhorst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not later than March 1 of each year DFPS must publish its annual child fatality report;</li> <li>• DFPS shall designate employees to serve specifically as after-hour investigators in geographic areas with demonstrated need;</li> <li>• if assessment of child indicates child may have intellectual disability then referral for determination should be made as soon as possible after assessment and conducted before the child's 16th bday;</li> <li>• repeats creation of foster care capacity needs plan from SB 11;</li> <li>• adds representatives from speaker, Lt. governor and governor to child fatality review team committee;</li> <li>• DSHS shall develop a training for justice of the peace (JP) judges and medical examiners regarding inquests in child death cases;</li> <li>• DSHS shall also evaluate available child fatality data and use to create public health strategies for prevention;</li> <li>• DFPS shall develop data collection strategy for near fatality cases and these cases shall be included in the child fatality database;</li> <li>• DFPS shall produce a report on child fatalities and near fatalities including any prior contact with DFPS, number of caseworkers, assigned caseload, referrals, safety plan provided if were involved with FBSS, services offered, level of compliance, number of contacts DFPS made;</li> <li>• requires county child fatality team to reflect diversity of county's population;</li> <li>• requires review team to ID any demographic trends and disproportionality;</li> <li>• review team shall have access to preliminary death certificate for deceased child;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• county commissioner's courts shall develop timeline for conducting inquests;</li> <li>• JP or medical examiner shall notify the appropriate county review team of child's death no later than 120 days after date of the death is reported;</li> <li>• DFPS shall expedite kinship home assessments to ensure child is placed with a caregiver who can protect the child from the alleged perpetrator;</li> <li>• PEI strategic plan must ID strategies for increasing the number of families receive PEI services each year;</li> <li>• DFPS shall ID geographic areas that have a high need for PEI services but they aren't yet available, develop strategies to improve recognition and reporting of child maltreatment and reduce child deaths - DFPS may not use this data to ID a specific individual/family;</li> <li>• DFPS may enter into agreements with higher ed institutions to review any services not already reviewed - agreement must be cost neutral;</li> <li>• DFPS shall develop a program, including critical stress debriefing, that supports secondary trauma of caseworkers;</li> <li>• DFPS shall collect the following data on the state and county level: # of reports of child maltreatment to the hotline, types of child maltreatment reported, priority of investigations, response time, disposition, reports that were screened out or differential response, safety and risk findings, number of FBSS families organized by risk level, children removed and primary reason why, kids in substitute care are placed out of region, children at each service level, those pregnant or parenting and whose child is in foster care, recurrence within 6mo and a year when case was administratively closed, child removed, FBSS as well as recurrence in 5yrs of last two categories – report data collected by 2/1 of each year;</li> <li>• DFPS shall implement a caseload management system that tries to evenly distribute workload, includes geographic assignment in areas with high risk populations, anticipates shortages and vacancies, extended leave and overtime work shall be taken into consideration;</li> <li>• DFPS shall establish a Prevention Task Force - report submitted by 8/31/18. Task force is abolished by 8/31/19</li> </ul>

#### KINSHIP

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 4	Burkett / Schwertner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishes a monthly payment that may not exceed 50% of the basic foster care rate if the family is at 300% of Federal Poverty Level or lower (72K for family of four);</li> <li>• payment can last one year from date of first payment with possible six month extension granted by DFPS;</li> <li>• \$500 per child/per year reimbursement for 3 years or until child is 18 if kin takes Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC);</li> </ul>



Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishes penalties for fraud including Class C misdemeanor if received no money or for less than 7 days, a Class B if for 7-31 days, a Class A if 31-91 days or a state jail felony if 91 days or more. County prosecutor shall be responsible for case; liability for \$1,000 civil penalty recovered by Attorney General;</li> <li>requires annual report on number of disruptions, reason for disruptions, the length of time it takes families receiving benefits to obtain PMC of child</li> </ul>
HB 1043	Blanco / Zaffirini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>applies to grandparents, aunts/uncles and siblings but also to adult caregivers (defined in HB 871 as someone the parent has authorized to care for the child);</li> <li>allows person to seek a court order for temporary authorization for care of a child by filing a petition in the district court in the county the person resides if the child has resided with the person for the last 30 days and the person does not have a Chapter 34 agreement or other signed, written documentation from a parent that enables the person to provide necessary care for the child;</li> <li>if the person is unable to get documentation from the parent they must state why in the petition;</li> <li>upon receipt of petition the court must hold a hearing;</li> <li>proof of service to parent must be filed with the court;</li> <li>court shall grant petition only if by preponderance of the evidence the child has no parent able to give the consent;</li> <li>order expires on the first anniversary of the date of issuance or at an earlier date determined by the court;</li> <li>order may be renewed for not more than 1 year;</li> <li>parent can request termination at any time;</li> <li>person who submitted petition in good faith not subject to criminal or civil penalty;</li> <li>the order does not affect the rights of the parent and does not establish legal custody of the child nor does it confer standing; it also does not create a court of continuing jurisdiction</li> </ul>
HB 3052	Herrero / Watson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>changes to a Chapter 34 agreement to include: adding ability to obtain copies or originals of state issued personal ID documents including the child's birth certificate and to the extent authorized under federal law copies or originals of federally issued personal ID for child including child's SS card;</li> <li>changes notification to last known address and to one copy by certified mail, return receipt requested or international registered mail as applicable and one by first class or international class mail; instead of waiting until they don't receive a response from the first method</li> </ul>
SB 203	West / S. Davis	removes sunset provision of Permanency Care Assistance program
SB 879	Uresti / Rose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a relative may appeal denial of placement due to a low-risk criminal offense (a non-violent criminal offense that has low risk of impacting a child's safety/well-being or the stability of the placement);</li> <li>DFPS shall develop the appeal process including a list of criminal offenses DFPS determines are low-risk and a procedure for</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<p>appropriate regional review that includes consideration of: when the conviction occurred, if there are multiple convictions and the likelihood there will be future activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFPS shall provide prospective relative caregivers with information on the appeal procedure</li> </ul>

## COURTS

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 2849	Burkett / Perry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFPS shall remove a person's name from the central registry no later than 10 business days after DFPS receives notice that a finding of child maltreatment is overturned in an administrative review/appeal, a review/appeal conducted by the Office of Consumer Affairs or a hearing of an appeal conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings;</li> <li>• DFPS must update any relevant files to reflect the overturned finding no later than 10 business days after the review, hearing or appeal</li> </ul>
SB 738	Kolkhorst / Schofield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires all cases regarding the same children and the same CPS incident be heard by the same court;</li> <li>• requires DFPS to file the suit in the court of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction and where more than one court has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of more than one child named in the petition that DFPS shall file with the court most recently exercised continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of a child named in the petition</li> </ul>
SB 999	West / Giddings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• removes the requirement that a person taking a child into possession without a court order in an emergency to protect the child's health and safety request a court to appoint an AAL for the child;</li> <li>• under these circumstances there must be an affidavit stating facts sufficient to satisfy a person of ordinary prudence and caution that, based on the information available at the time the child was taken into possession there was an immediate danger to the child's physical health/safety or the child was a victim of sexual abuse or trafficking, the parent or person who had possession was using a controlled substance and the use constituted an immediate danger or the parent allowed the child to remain on premises where meth was being made;</li> <li>• affidavit must also state there was no time for a full adversary hearing and reasonable efforts were made to prevent the removal of the child;</li> <li>• sets a deadline for holding the full adversary hearing as not later than 30 days after date suit is filed; retains authority of a court to render a temporary restraining order;</li> <li>• authorizes a court, for a non-indigent parent, to postpone the adversary hearing for good cause shown for not more than 7 days from the date of the parent's appearance.</li> </ul>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING / SEXUAL ASSAULT

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 29	S. Thompson / Huffman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requires CDL training to include recognition and prevention of human trafficking;</li> <li>sexually oriented business shall post by sink area a sign that directs victims of human trafficking to contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center; must be in English and Spanish although Attorney General (AG) can require more languages and that it be larger in size; Class C misdemeanor if fail to post the sign;</li> <li>AG may issue a civil investigative demand requiring production of material, oral testimony and answer in writing (includes offense for deliberate non-compliance);</li> <li>sex offender registration must include make, model and VIN of every vehicle owned if offense is related to trafficking;</li> <li>requires judges to set hearings and trials with a preference for human trafficking cases;</li> <li>continues human trafficking task force;</li> <li>removes not knowing the age of the child as affirmative defense; raises promotion of prostitution from Class A to state jail felony and felony of 3rd degree if actor was previously convicted</li> </ul>
HB 1503	Frullo / Huffman	no later than 8hrs after abduction, local law enforcement shall provide data to the missing person/missing children clearinghouse
SB 966	Watson / Neave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offense of consuming or possessing alcohol does not apply to a minor who reports sexual assault of themselves or another person to a health care provider treating victim, title XI coordinator, law enforcement including campus police or another employee responsible for responding to reports;</li> <li>minor entitled to raise this law as affirmative defense if they reported offense or they were the victim of it;</li> <li>minor who commits sexual assault not entitled to any protection</li> </ul>
SB 1806	Huffman / Miller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFPS shall refer cases directly to a center to initiate a response from a multidisciplinary team when conducting an investigation of alleged sexual abuse, child fatality or other case handled by the center;</li> <li>any interview of the child shall be forensic unless not appropriate due to the child's age and development or the center's working protocol;</li> <li>only applies where center has an MOU with DFPS but can refer to another county that has one</li> </ul>
SB 2039	Zaffirini / S. Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEA along with the human trafficking prevention task force shall develop one or more sexual abuse and sex trafficking instructional modules that a school district may use in the district's health curriculum;</li> <li>the modules must emphasize compassion for the victims and creation of positive reentry experiences for survivors into schools;</li> <li>a district that elects to use the module shall provide written notice to parents of students before the beginning of each school year (notice shall include description of material to be used and a statement that the parent has a right to review);</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if the school district does not comply with the notification requirement a parent of a student enrolled in the district may file a complaint;</li> <li>• school districts and open-enrollment charter schools shall include policies on sex trafficking with policies required on sexual abuse and other maltreatment;</li> <li>• school district may cooperate with law enforcement and outside consultants to create the policy and a referral protocol for high-risk students;</li> <li>• extends the human trafficking task force until 2019</li> </ul>

#### FOSTER PARENTS

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 88	Martinez / Hinojosa	considered unlawful employment practice if leave policy of employer does not treat foster child (who lives in same household and is in conservatorship of DFPS) same as biological or adopted child
HB 1410	Ortega / Rodriguez	closes loophole allowing a foster parent to be granted leave to intervene in a pending suit unless they have had substantial past contact with a child for the past year
HB 1556	M. Gonzalez / Menendez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allows foster parent to act as educational decision-maker if rights and duties of DFPS have been limited by court order;</li> <li>• require training program for foster parent of a child with a disability no later than the 90th day after becoming education decision-maker;</li> <li>• can't require foster parent to retake training;</li> <li>• no later than 5 days after enrollment of a child with disabilities, DFPS must inform the school district if foster parent unable/unwilling to serve;</li> <li>• requires district to appoint if unable to ID or locate a parent or foster parent unwilling/unable;</li> <li>• surrogate parent can't be person compensated to provide care for the child or have any interest that conflicts with the child's interest;</li> <li>• lists duties of surrogate parent; if surrogate not properly performing duties then district shall notify DFPS and appoint new person and DFPS shall notify the court</li> </ul>

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 156	Raymond / Zaffirini	pilot program that establishes JROTC as an alternative disciplinary/juvenile justice placement in municipalities of 200K or more, located along border; more than 20% of population 18-24 haven't graduated from high school

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 674	E. Johnson / Garcia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>schools may develop and implement a disciplinary alternative to a student below 3rd grade who violates code of conduct unless the student engages in an offense related to weapons, certain violent offenses, drug related offenses;</li> <li>the program must be research based and provide positive models for student behavior (PBIS, trauma informed, SEL)</li> </ul>
HB 678	Wu / Miles	when state and child agree to disposition of a case in whole or part, a referee or associate judge may hold a hearing to allow the child to enter a plea or stipulation of evidence and the referee or judge shall transmit recommendations regarding such to the juvenile court judge for consideration (which that judge may accept or reject)
HB 932	Johnson of Harris / West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TJJD during admission shall determine whether a child has at any time been in foster care and shall record if they are currently in care or how many previous times they have been placed there;</li> <li>DFPS shall within 14 days of receiving request for information from a local JPD provide that information;</li> <li>TJJD, local JPD and DFPS shall collaborate to create methods by which JPDs may access information from DFPS re: a child's placement in foster care.</li> <li>TJJD shall submit a report on these methods by 3/1/18;</li> <li>1/31 of each even numbered year, TJJD shall submit a report on the statistical information collected from youth.</li> </ul>
HB 1204	White / West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for child to be eligible: must be younger than 12, probably cause to believe engaged in delinquent conduct or Child In Need of Supervision (CINS), case doesn't require referral to prosecuting attorney (because of weapons or felony charge), the child is eligible for deferred prosecution and child and child's family not currently receiving services and would benefit;</li> <li>Community Resource Coordination Group (CRCP), local-level interagency staffing group or another community juvenile services provider shall evaluate the case and make recommendations to the Juvenile Probation Department (JPD);</li> <li>the probation officer (PO) shall create a service plan that incorporates recommendations (with consent to services of child and child's parent);</li> <li>the PO can hold this case open for no more than 3 months and may refer to prosecuting attorney if child fails to comply;</li> <li>requires juvenile boards to establish policies that prioritize diversion of children younger than 12 from referral to a prosecuting attorney and limit detention of children younger than 12 to circumstances of last resort;</li> <li>Office of Court Administration shall study use of terms juvenile, child and minor through criminal and juvenile justice statutes and determine whether adjudication under adult system of juveniles charged with misdemeanor fine only is just/efficient (submitted by 12/1/18)</li> </ul>
HB 1521	White / Whitmire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at request of TJJD or local juvenile justice agency, DFPS shall provide (no later than 14 days) information necessary to improve and maintain the community safety or that assists the agency in the continuation of services for or providing services in a multi-</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<p>system youth who is or has been in foster care, was the subject of FBSS, has been reported as an alleged victim, is the perpetrator in a reason to believe (RTB) case; is a victim in an RTB;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TJJD or local agency shall share information with DFPS for same reasons</li> </ul>
HB 1808	Meyer / Garcia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for trafficking, sexual offense, assault, aggravated sexual assault, public indecency, compelling/promoting prostitution - a person commits an offense if that actor was 17 or older and victim younger than 14 regardless of whether the actor knew the age of the victim at the time of the offense;</li> <li>• a person commits an offense of sexual coercion if the person intentionally threatens to commit trafficking, sexual offenses, assault to obtain intimate visual material, an act involving arousal or gratification for a monetary benefit;</li> <li>• it does not matter the form the threat takes; offense is state jail felony except felony of 3rd degree if person has previously been convicted of the offense;</li> <li>• person commits offense if they have the intent of facilitating the commission of the offense of aggravated sexual assault and use any substance capable of impairing the victim's ability to appraise or resist (versus specific substances)</li> </ul>
HB 2880	Dutton / Menendez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adds use and threat to exhibition of firearm in or on school property or on a bus and was in possession of or has immediate access to a firearm;</li> <li>• 3rd degree felony unless didn't have possession of or immediate access to the firearm and then Class A misdemeanor</li> </ul>
SB 179	Menendez / Minjarez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bullying defined as a single significant act or pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and that materially &amp; substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school or infringes on the rights of the victim at school;</li> <li>• includes cyberbullying which applies to any electronic communication use on school property as well as outside as part of a school related activity if the cyberbullying has similar consequences to what is in definition of bullying;</li> <li>• requires reporting of alleged victims and bullies on or before 3rd business day and includes procedures for students to anonymously report; student can be placed in alternative education program if engages in bullying that encourages a student to attempt or commit suicide, incites violence against a student through group bullying or releases or threatens to release intimate visual material of a minor or student 18+ without the student's consent;</li> <li>• principal or designees at public primary or secondary school may make a report to the school district police or police department after an investigation is completed and there is grounds to believe student has engaged in conduct;</li> <li>• person who contracts with district is not required to report and can't be principal's designee; person who takes action under this provision is immune;</li> <li>• makes open enrollment charter schools open to provisions;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Education Agency (TEA) and HHSC shall establish an Internet website with resources regarding working with students with mental health conditions; web page must include grief and trauma informed practices, skills to manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships and responsible decision-making, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports and a safe and supportive school climate;</li> <li>• to school counselor responsibilities adds being a resource for resolving conflicts and discord involving two or more students;</li> <li>• recipient of cyberbullying or the parent may seek injunctive relief, court may issue temporary restraining order, temporary/permanent injunction against child or parent, plaintiff not required to completely prove before notice is served;</li> <li>• harassment through electronic communication offense is Class B misdemeanor, but Class A if intent that child commit suicide or engage in conduct to cause serious bodily injury to child or if actor previously violated a temporary restraining order or injunction</li> </ul>
SB 1177	Hughes / Koop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEA commissioner shall adopt a form and procedure to allow a detention, correctional or residential facility to apply for a charter;</li> <li>• rules may be adopted to allow a charter school to operate in this environment</li> </ul>
SB 1304	Perry / White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• authorization to photograph/fingerprint a child referred to juvenile court for felony or misdemeanor punishable by jail applies whether or not child has been taken into custody and parental consent is not required;</li> <li>• if child not referred then officer can still do if parent consents; removes requirement that a juvenile board conduct an audit of law enforcement to verify the required destruction of photographs and fingerprints of juveniles;</li> <li>• officer can get photograph from JPD rather than take child into custody to get it; redacting information re: victim is not required if it is information shared with an attorney representing a child or other person represented in a juvenile or criminal court proceeding;</li> <li>• expands restrictions on disclosure of juvenile records to include inspection, copying, and maintenance and storage of information from which a record could be generated;</li> <li>• those authorized to inspect or copy records include a clerk of court, JPD or a prosecuting attorney relating to a child who is party to a case or a person child is referred to for services if a confidentiality agreement has been signed;</li> <li>• court record can't be used by prosecuting attorney in punishment phase if the record has been sealed;</li> <li>• persons working on research/statistical projects that meet certain requirements and are approved by and have agreement with TJJD can have access to records;</li> <li>• a person referred to a JPD for delinquent conduct to have all records related to the juvenile matters sealed without applying to the juvenile court if the person is 19, has not been adjudicated as having engaged in delinquent conduct or if adjudicated it was not</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<p>for a felony and they have no pending matters, has not been transferred to criminal court for prosecution, has not been an adult convicted of a felony or misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail and has no pending adult charges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if at least 25 then can have records sealed if adjudicated for delinquent conduct grade felony, did not receive a determinate sentence for engaging in conduct that violated a penal law for which a person is eligible for a determinate sentence or in habitual felony conduct, has not been required to register as a sex offender, does not have pending conduct transferred to criminal court and has not been an adult convicted of a felony or misdemeanor jail and has no pending charges like this;</li> <li>• Department of Public Safety (DPS) must certify to JPD that records have been submitted that seem to meet qualifications - the JPD shall provide notice of receipt of this certification no later than 60 days after the date they receive certification. Must indicate notice that they don't qualify no later than 15 days after receipt;</li> <li>• juvenile court must issue an order sealing all records no later than 60 days after the court initially receives notice from the JPD;</li> <li>• person referred to juvenile court for CINS can have records sealed without applying to a juvenile court if at least 18, has not been referred to JPD for delinquent conduct, has not as adult been convicted of a felony and does not have pending adult felony or misdemeanor jail charges;</li> <li>• court can't charge fee for filing application for sealing of records; authorizes juvenile court to order sealing of records of all matters for which the person was referred to the JPD if person at least 18 or younger than 18 and at least 2 years have elapsed after the date of final discharge in each matter and there are no pending delinquent conduct charges, they haven't been transferred to criminal court, and as an adult hasn't been convicted of a felony and no pending felony or misdemeanor jail charges;</li> <li>• person can't have records sealed if person received a determinate sentence or engaged in habitual felony conduct, has to register as a sex offender, or was committed to TJJD or post-adjudication secure correctional facility unless the person had been discharged from the agency to which the person was committed;</li> <li>• if sealed and get request for records must say they don't exist;</li> <li>• person subject of the records can deny their existence and not face penalties</li> </ul>
SB 1314	Rodriguez / Moody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires juvenile boards to develop minimum standards for the operation of substance abuse facilities or programs by JPD;</li> <li>• does not require a facility or program operating under these standards to be licensed or otherwise approved by any other state or local agency</li> </ul>
SB 1571	Huffman / Frullo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allows law enforcement or JP officer to release child to residential child-care facility, a JPD, DFPS or any other person authorized by law to take possession of a child;</li> <li>• before releasing to person other than governmental entity, they need to verify with National Crime Information Center that the</li> </ul>



Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<p>child is not missing and verify that the person to which the child is being released does not have outstanding warrants, a protective order, is not a registered sex offender, and any other info DFPS considers relevant;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>also must search DFPS registry, verify person is 18+ and complete information about the child's placement on a DFPS form including identifying info about the child and the name and address of the person to whom the child is being released</li> </ul>

#### ADOPTION

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 834	Parker / Birdwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cannot transfer permanent physical custody of a child to any person not a relative or stepparent or an adult with a significant long-standing relationship;</li> <li>exception is if they file a petition with a court and the court approves;</li> <li>CPA shall provide prospective adoptive parents with info re: community services and other resources available to support and the options available if parent unable to care for child;</li> <li>rehoming offense is 3rd degree felony unless purpose is related to trafficking or sexual assault</li> </ul>
SB 948	Kolkhorst / Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adoptive parents must be provided information about right of child to sue for sibling access;</li> <li>information can be provided on any form or application provided to prospective adoptive parents</li> </ul>

#### FAITH BASED

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 871	Roberts / Perry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>allows for Chapter 34 agreement to be used by non-relatives (expanding definition of adult caregiver in that chapter to adult person whom parent has authorized to provide temporary care to versus just a relative);</li> <li>Chapter 34 agreement does not subject the adult caregiver to any laws or regulations or residential child care facilities;</li> <li>child is not considered to be in foster care; changes length of agreement from valid until revoked or expires on specific date to six months from the date the parties enter into the agreement (automatically renewing for six month terms unless terminated); time provided earlier than 6 months, terminated or continued by the court;</li> <li>DFPS may not initiate an investigation based solely on a request submitted to DFPS for information related to families in crisis</li> </ul>
HB 3859	Frank / Perry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generally prohibits an adverse action against any child welfare service provider;</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adverse action includes any action that directly or indirectly adversely affects the person against whom the adverse action is taken, places the person in a worse position than they were in before or is likely to deter a reasonable person from acting or refusing to act (i.e. denying an application for funding, a contract or license or limiting the ability of a person to engage in child welfare services);</li> <li>• child welfare services include assisting abused or neglected children, counseling children/parents, recruiting foster parents etc.;</li> <li>• providers do not include SSCC or governmental entity; cannot take adverse action if provider declined or will decline to provide, facilitate or refer a person for a child welfare service that conflicts with the provider's sincerely held belief or if provider provides or intends to provide children with a religious education or has declined or will decline to refer a person for abortion, contraceptives, or drugs, devices or services that are potentially abortion inducing or refuses to enter into a contract that is inconsistent with or would in any way force the provider to surrender their rights under this law;</li> <li>• governmental entity must ensure there is a secondary provider available in that catchment area or a nearby area;</li> <li>• the provider shall provide the person seeking the service written information directing the person to the DFPS web page and other information sources that ID other providers who provide the service;</li> <li>• provider shall also refer the applicant to another licensed provider or to DFPS/SSCC;</li> <li>• declaratory or injunctive relief can be sought; does not allow a provider to decline services based on race, ethnicity or national origin or to deprive a minor of their rights</li> </ul>

#### PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 928	White / Uresti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires a DFPS employee who is part of a CRCG to: inform the group about the tuition and fee waiver;</li> <li>• collaborate with district superintendent and school counselors to ID eligible foster and adoptive children;</li> <li>• after ID assist the child with completion of applications, arrange and accompany child on campus visits;</li> <li>• assist the child in researching scholarships, ID if child is a candidate for military academy, assist child in registering and preparing for college entrance exams and any associated fees and help connect with a foster care liaison</li> </ul>
HB 1608	Minjarez / Uresti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFPS shall establish a summer internship pilot program that provides opportunity to develop job skills and professional work experience (15yrs or older);</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>calls for evaluation at 2nd anniversary and submission of report to legislature;</li> <li>to be established no later than 1/1/18</li> </ul>
HB 2537	Guerra / West	during first high school year and each additional year, school counselor shall provide information about postsecondary education information regarding Education and Training Voucher (ETV) and tuition and fee waivers for those who are or were in foster care
HB 3338	White / Miles	DFPS in cooperation with volunteer advocates from charitable organizations and DPS shall develop procedures to ensure that a foster child obtains a driver's license or personal ID card before the child leaves conservatorship
SB 1220	Miles / Vo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support transition of youth in care and homeless students from one school to next by requiring development of procedures to ensure that a new school relies on decisions made by the previous school regarding placement in courses or educational programs and places student in comparable courses/programs at the new school if available;</li> <li>requires for special ed that comparable services are provided during the referral process or until the new school develops an Individualized Education Plan;</li> <li>requires DFPS to collaborate with workforce development boards, transition centers, community/technical colleges, schools and others to create a program that assists current and former foster care youth in obtaining a high school diploma or GED, industry certifications that are necessary for occupations in high demand and career guidance as well as information about tuition and fee waiver;</li> <li>requires report on program no later than 9/1/18</li> </ul>
SB 1758	Zaffirini / Turner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requires life skills assessment for all kids in permanent managing conservatorship with first round starting with only 15 year olds and second round with 14 year olds;</li> <li>revamp of Preparation for Adult Living curriculum;</li> <li>documentation check at all permanency court hearings</li> </ul>

## HEALTH

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 1600	S. Thompson / Watson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a provider shall be allowed to conduct a mental health screening using one or more validated, standardized mental health screening tools during each annual medical exam of recipient who is 12-19 years of age;</li> <li>provider shall be reimbursed for this screening</li> </ul>
HB 2848	Burkett / Perry	Forensic Assessment Center Network agreement with DFPS or DSHS and entities that receive grants from the TX Medical Child Abuse Resources and Education System must require network/system to have the ability to obtain consultations with physicians (i.e. radiologists, geneticists) in identifying unique health conditions including Vitamin D deficiency, rickets etc.;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if during an assessment or child maltreatment investigation the network/system determines a child needs a consultation with a physician, DFPS or the physician shall refer the child's case to the network/system (if they have capacity to take the case);</li> <li>• the network/system must use a blind peer review process to resolve cases where physicians in the network/system disagree in the causes of the child's injuries or in the presence of one of the unique health conditions</li> </ul>
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### MISCELLANEOUS

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
HB 2124	Minjarez / Kolkhorst	DFPS must determine if alleged perpetrator is member of armed forces and if so must report to US Dept. of Defense Family Advocacy Program
HB 2849	Burkett / Perry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFPS shall remove a person's name from the central registry no later than 10 business days after DFPS receives notice that a finding of child maltreatment is overturned in an administrative review/appeal, a review/appeal conducted by Office of Consumer Affairs or a hearing of an appeal conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings;</li> <li>• DFPS must update any relevant files to reflect the overturned finding no later than 10 business days after the review, hearing or appeal</li> </ul>
HB 4094	Klick / Uresti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires criminal history on person 14+ who will be regularly/frequently working in or staying in a facility or family home regardless of whether are not children are being provided care at the time they are there;</li> <li>• adds to those who DFPS is entitled to do a criminal history check on: an applicant for a position with DFPS, employee regardless of position, volunteer, volunteer or employee with a contractor with DFPS, person living in residence with alleged victim, a person providing in-home care for the child who is subject of a report alleging abuse/neglect, person providing for in-home care only with that person's permission, relative, persons providing or applying to provide foster/adoptive services, person 14+ who will be working or staying in Supervised Independent Living (SIL);</li> <li>• names shall be submitted every 2 years</li> </ul>
SB 190	Uresti / Wu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• caseworker may refer case to supervisor for abbreviated investigation or administrative closure at any time before the 60th day report is received if there is no prior report of abuse/neglect of the subject child, DFPS has not received additional reports following the initial one and after contacting a professional or other credible source, the caseworker determines that the child's safety can be assured without further action and the caseworker determines no abuse/neglect occurred;</li> <li>• supervisor shall review all cases that have been open for more than 60 days and administratively close if the circumstances for</li> </ul>

Bill #	Author/Sponsor	What the bill does
		<p>caseworker referral exist and closing the case would not expose the child to any undue harm;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supervisor may reassign a case that does not qualify to a different caseworker if that would be most effective use of resources</li> </ul>
SB 497	Uresti / Wu	establishes Office of Workforce Development and Analytics in DFPS; reports to deputy commissioner; monitors management trends, analyze employee exit surveys etc.
SB 998	West / Canales	statute of limitations moved from 3 to 7 years from the date of the commission of exploitation of a child, elderly individual or disabled individual
SB 1021	Nelson / Price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adds DFPS commissioner to HHSC Executive Council;</li> <li>changes from 9/1/18 to 7/31/18 requirement for HHSC commissioner to conduct a study and submit recommendations re: the need to continue DFPS as a state agency separate from the Commission unless a determination is made before that date, the need to continue Department of State Health Services as a separate agency, an assessment of the quality and consistency of data sharing, communication, and coordination between DFPS and HHSC and an assessment of any known conflicts of interest as well as process by which these would be mitigated;</li> <li>the HHS Transition Legislative Oversight Committee shall make similar recommendations except for conflict of interest;</li> <li>reenacts section of Government Code that requires development of a system of care framework which is a framework for collaboration among state agencies for minors who have SED or are at-risk of developing SED in order to improve access to services in the community;</li> <li>this framework shall help develop local mental health systems of care for minors who are receiving residential or inpatient services or are at-risk of being removed from their home;</li> <li>commission should identify appropriate funding sources and develop an evaluation system to measure cross-system performance</li> </ul>
SB 1063	Perry / Klick	an investigation of an anonymous report should include a home visit as part of the investigation unless the alleged abuse/neglect can be confirmed or clearly ruled out without one
SB 1705	Van Taylor / S. Thompson	a person under 18 may not marry unless the person has been granted by this state or another a court order removing the disabilities of minority of the person for general purposes

#### SAMPLE OF LEGISLATION THAT FAILED TO PASS IN THE 85<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

Bill # (companion)	Author / Sponsor	Main component of legislation
HB 122	Dutton et al.	raises the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18 under a juvenile court

Bill # (companion)	Author / Sponsor	Main component of legislation
HB 128 (SB 211)	Minjarez	removes requirement of licensure for monthly foster care payments
HB 132 (SB 212)	Minjarez	adds aunts/uncles and siblings to one-time grandparent grant
HB 634 (SB 429)	Mary Gonzalez	DFPS must only hire individuals with bachelor degrees to be caseworkers
HB 694	Wu	changes P1 response time from 24hrs. to 48hrs. and P2 response time from 72hrs to 5 days
HB 775 (SB 268)	Fallon	drug testing requirements for TANF recipients
HB 862	Bernal	waiver for driver's license fee for homeless youth
HB 1160	S. Davis / Schwertner	a court may not render an order requiring or prohibiting medical care for a child in foster care unless a medical/mental health professional has been consulted or evidence of consultation has been admitted into evidence
HB 1274 (SB 556)	Moody	parole considerations that apply when youth committed offense before 18 - considerations include growth and maturity and family and community environment
HB 1620	Sanford	establishes voluntary temporary caregiver program for children removed from their homes; verification process less stringent than foster parent training and placement can only last for 14 days unless caregiver designated as Parental Child Safety Placement or designated caregiver
HB 2225 (SB 1018)	Raney	DFPS must license ICE family residential centers as a General Residential Operation (GRO)
HB 3519	White	if deferred prosecution fee or restitution would result in hardship then community service could be required
HB 3936	Frank	allows for child care for foster parents or kinship caregivers regardless of the number of hours they work
HB 4083	Miller	cannot consent to psychotropic medications for foster child if symptoms are related to a traumatic event or to relieve temporary symptoms of a traumatic event
HB 4124	Rodriguez	adds to bill of rights gender identity and sexual orientation as well as freedom to choose a religion/activities including the choice not to practice
SB 424	Rodriguez	child under 14 may not under any circumstances be committed to TJJD; cannot be placed in a post-adjudication secure correctional facility unless child has significant needs (determined by validated needs and risk assessment) that cannot be met outside a residential setting and no other reasonable placement is available
SB 1721	Whitmire	removes "of the opposite sex" from the Romeo and Juliet law (affirmative defense of actor not being more than 3 years older than other actor)