



House Interim Charges Pertaining to At-Risk Youth and Families

Child Welfare

Research strategies to promote permanency and stability for children and families involved with Child Protective Services. Identify any priorities that would approve the adoption process. *House Committee on Human Services (Charge 1)*

Evaluate Prevention and Early Intervention programs at the Department of Family and Protective Services that have been funded by the Texas Legislature for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Consider if higher priority for selection should be given to child or family mentoring or other support services, such as foster grandparents and efforts that assist mothers. *House Committee on Human Services (Charge 3)*

Evaluate existing and past efforts by the state for Youth Transitions in Independent Living. Recommend improvements to educational, occupational, health, and life skills components of preparation of foster children for adult living. *House Committee on Human Services (Charge 4)*

Investigate the need and potential of respite care programs to delay or avoid institutional placements, thereby resulting in cost savings for the state. *House committee on Human Services (Charge 5)*

Study the current Texas law governing suits by nonparents affecting the parent-child relationship, specifically including suits for possession of or access to a child by a grandparent under Family Code Sections 153.432-153.434 in light of *Troxel v. Granville* and other court rulings. Recommend any needed changes. *House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 1)*

Juvenile Justice

Monitor and examine the implementation of funding appropriated during the 80th Legislature to the Texas Youth Commission, Juvenile Probation Commission, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), and Correctional Managed Health Care Committee. *House Committee on Appropriations (Charge 13)*

Assess the relationship between mental health illness and criminal behavior and offer reforms needed to address the proliferation of mental illness in the adult and juvenile criminal systems. This review should include an examination of data sharing between criminal justice and health and human service agencies, proper screening, assessments, treatment, discharge planning, post-release supervision, and community services. *House Committee on Appropriations (Charge 18), House Committee on Corrections (Charge 8)*

Study the organizational structure of the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to determine if the current system is effectively and efficiently addressing the needs of the juvenile justice system in conjunction with the sunset review of these agencies. *House Committee on Corrections (Charge 4), House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 9)*



Study Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs and Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs, including referral rates, age of students, whether parents have sufficient recourse to challenge a placement, funding, and course requirements. *House Committee on Corrections (Charge 5), House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 10)*

Study the use of police diversion under Chapter 52 of the Family Code for youth who are referred to the juvenile justice system, including those there as a result of incidents in school. *House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 6)*

Study victim-offender mediation and neighborhood restorative justice panels. *House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 7)*

Determine whether current mental health practices followed by the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission are adequate or appropriate, and make recommendations for any needed changes. *House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 8)*

Mental Health

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Determine whether current mental health practices followed by the Texas Youth Commission are adequate or appropriate, and make recommendations for any needed changes. *House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 8)*

Other charges related to strengthening families and investing in youth

Poverty

Research strategies to ensure that the state will meet more stringent federal work requirements to avoid the loss of critical federal funds. Include a comparison of exemptions from work requirements provided by Texas as opposed to other states. *House Committee on Appropriations (Charge 7)*

Examine regulatory agencies and programs to consider aspects such as call center consolidation, strategies to allow access to greater revenue generated, and communication of best practice alternatives across agency lines. *House Committee on Appropriations (Charge 14)*

Evaluate child support guidelines and formulas, considering whether the current methods provide adequate support to a child. Also, study child support for the costs of college. *House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues (Charge 2)*

Study and evaluate the levels, methods and alternatives by which the state funds all affordable housing programs, focusing on administrative cost-effectiveness to determine greater returns on investment, savings and efficiency. Examine the current procedures and applications of the annual, integrated Low Income Housing Plan prepared by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and prepare recommendations for the development of a comprehensive, long-range, statewide plan or model to address growing needs throughout the state. *House Committee on Urban Affairs (Charge 3)*

Monitor current methodology involving departmental rules, procedures and policies governing state and federal compliance in the evaluation and ranking of all multifamily affordable housing applications for the allocation of funds during the annual awards cycles. *House Committee on Urban Affairs (Charge 4)*

Education

Evaluate early childhood education programs in public schools and study the impact of different instructional and funding models on students' school-readiness and schools' operational efficiency. *House Committee on Public Education (Charge 3)*

Research and evaluate state-supported policies and programs designed to attract, train, and support effective teachers and instructional leaders, including programs designed to recruit and retain teachers in hard-to-staff schools. *House Committee on Public Education (Charge 4)*

Evaluate the cost and feasibility of requiring students who attend institutions of higher education to be covered by a health benefit plan. Evaluate whether institutions should have the authority to offer tuition waivers or insurance coverage to graduate students and fellows. *House Committee on Higher Education (Charge 1)*

Study and evaluate strategies for improving student participation and success, particularly in the critical fields identified in *Closing the Gaps*, through student financial aid or incentive funding for higher education institutions. *House Committee on Higher Education (Charge 2)*

Examine and evaluate institutional policies and programs designed to promote student participation and success, including outreach, admissions, and transfer policies, developmental education programs, and relevant student support programs. *House Committee on Higher Education (Charge 3)*

Examine strategies for improving state financial aid programs. Evaluate the design and administration of state financial aid programs in terms of operational efficiency and effectiveness in advancing state goals for student participation and success. *House Committee on Higher Education (Charge 7)*



Health

Comprehensively review Medicaid provider reimbursement rate methodologies, including the impact of factors such as infrastructure concerns, federal minimum wage changes, and cost reports. The review should also address health care concerns such as access to care, quality of care, and value. Any recommendations should take into account current rate increases impacting the next fiscal year. *House Committee on Appropriations (Charge 6)*

Study the state's current and long-range need for physicians, dentists, nurses and other allied health and long-term care professionals. Make recommendations regarding strategies related to geographic distribution and barriers to recruitment of high-need professions, especially for primary care providers and long-term care professionals. *House Committee on Appropriations (Charge 16), House Committee on Border and International Affairs (Charge 3), House committee on Public Health (Charge 9)*