



83rd Legislative Session Child Protection Roundtable Scorecard

The following is the scorecard of bills that the Child Protection Roundtable (CPRT) developed and endorsed for the 83rd Legislative Session. The CPRT, facilitated by TP, includes numerous statewide public policy, research and advocacy experts on child protection issues as well as direct providers to children in state care. TexProtects took a lead role in seeking passage of many of the CPRT bills.

The first column depicts the bill number, SB is an abbreviation for "Senate Bill" and HB stands for "House Bill", and an abbreviated purpose of the bill. Next, is listed the legislation author of the bill and the legislator who sponsored the bill in the non-originating chamber. Then the CPRT committee where the legislation was developed and the individual organization who initiated the legislation is then listed. The procedural process column describes how far along the RT team and lead facilitator took the bill through the legislative process and the path it took. The last column describes the final status of the legislation

Bill	Authors / Sponsors	Committee/ RT Sponsor	Procedural Process	Current Status
SB 130 Greater Access to Protective Orders	Senator Nelson Senator Garcia (Co-Author) Representative Lewis (Sponsor)	CPS Improvements/SB 434 82(R) Task Force	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 6/14/13</i>
	This legislation clarifies that a prosecuting attorney who represents a party in obtaining a protective order is not precluded from representing the Department of Family and Protective Services.			
SB 330 Record Access for Court Appointed Evaluators <i>Companion</i> <i>HB 1922</i>	Senator Huffman Senator West (Co-Author) Rep. Thompson, S (Sponsor)	CPS Improvements/Aaron Robb /Houston Domestic Relations Office	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation allows court-appointed evaluators access to Child Protective Services records in order to provide comprehensive assessments for children in custody and private adoption cases.			
SB 426 Home Visiting Expansion and Accountability Act	Senator Nelson Sen. Deuell/West (Co-Authors) Representative Zerwas (Sponsor)	Prevention/TexProtects	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation ensures home visiting (HV) programs set clear standards and that they are accountable for their outcomes, implemented with fidelity to the research model, and evaluated for QI and QA. It also creates a framework that ensures at least 75% of state revenues are invested in evidence-based programs and allows up to 25% of the funds to be invested in "Promising Practices."			
SB 429 CPS Dismissals Orders <i>Companion</i> <i>HB 1684</i>	Senator Nelson Representative Raymond (Sponsor)	CPS Improvements/SB 434 82(R) Task Force	Vetoed by the Governor	Failed to Pass
	This legislation would have ensured that before approving the dismissal of a CPS suit, judges would have been required to consider whether any child support, visitation, or other orders affecting the children should be entered.			
SB 939 Child Protection Act <i>Companion</i> <i>HB 2495</i>	Senator West Senator Uresti (Co-Author) Rep. Parker/Miller, R (Sponsors)	Prevention/TexProtects	Passed Both Chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation requires institutions of higher education to train certain staff and for schools and charter schools to provide all staff training on preventing, recognizing, and reporting suspected child abuse. All these institutions must implement written recognition and reporting policies consistent with state mandatory reporting laws.			

SB 1404 Education Success for Foster Children	Senator Patrick & Uresti Representative Parker (Sponsor)	CPS Improvements/Texas Foster Family Association	Passed Both Chambers	<i>Law Effective 6/14/13</i>
	This legislation allows for greater flexibility in order to graduate, ensures a foster student is on track to graduate upon enrollment in new school, requires a policy for the awarding of partial credit, and excuses court order activities.			
HB 915 Monitor Psychotropic Medication for Foster Youth	Senator Nelson Representative Kolkhorst (sponsor)	CPS Improvements/Texas CASA	Passed Both Chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation more closely monitors the administration of certain psychotropic medication to children in foster care. Requires education and resources be provided to transitioning foster youth to ensure the young adult's ability to manage psychoactive medication usage after exiting foster care must be provided. Requires that bio parents get timely notice of the use of psychoactive medication to treat their children. Requires in-person office visits with prescribing physician every 90 days to monitor side effects, whether the medication's goals are being met, and to review the continuing need for the medication. Requires that foster children who are not under Star Health and children that are covered by Medicare and Medicaid get the same protections against over medication as children enrolled in Star Health. Defines 'psychotropic medication' in the Family Code. Adds the following info to CPS' summary of medical care provided to courts/parties and requires monitoring: non-pharmacological interventions tried before the prescription of medication; any plans for discontinuation; and the child's prognosis with and without the medication.			
HB 1205 Increase Penalty for Failure to Report Child Abuse <i>Companion SB 384</i>	Rep. Parker/ Raymond / Zerwas /Fallon/Naishtat (Joint Authors) Rep. Miller, R/ Price/ Simmons /Wu (Co-Authors) Senator Carona (Sponsor)	Prevention/TexProtects	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation allows for an increased penalty for statutorily defined "professional reporters," failing to report child abuse, with the intent to conceal. Penalties could range from the current Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony.			
HB 3399 Placement Stability and Permanency for Foster Youth <i>Companion SB 1789</i> Amended to SB 534	Representative Raymond Senator Uresti (Sponsor)	CPS Priorities/Texas Association of Child Placing Agencies	Passed Both chambers Amended onto SB 534	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	The legislation requires a foster care provider to provide the reason why a placement change is requested and their recommendation of factors that would create a stable placement for the foster youth. It also requires that a placement review report submitted to the court describe changes in placement, state why a placement failed, and describe any barriers to placement.			
SB 1758 CPS Retention & Recruitment Task Force	Senator Uresti Representative Zerwas (Sponsor)	CPS Improvements/TexProtects	Passed Senate and Died on the House Calendar due to deadline	<i>Failed to Pass</i>
	This legislation would have established a task force composed of external business CEO's, expert labor consultants, HR leaders and CPS program staff to improve retention and recruitment of CPS caseworkers.			
HB 969 Loan Repayment Program for CPS Caseworkers <i>Companion SB 737</i>	Representative Dukes Senator Watson (sponsor)	CPS Improvements/NASW Texas	Died in Calendars	<i>Failed to Pass</i>
	This bill would have created a loan repayment program for CPS caseworkers.			
HB 1698 Define School Social Workers in Education Code	Representative Farrar	Prevention/NASW Texas	Died in Committee	<i>Failed to Pass</i>
	This bill would have defined the role of school social workers in the Education Code.			