



83rd Legislative Session - TexProtects Bill Scorecard

TexProtects was instrumental in initiating and/or passage of the following legislation during the 83rd Legislative Session

Bill	Authors / Sponsors	TexProtects Function	Procedural Process	Current Status
Texas Home Visiting Program Funding SB1	Article II Workgroup/Key Budget Decision Makers: Lt. Governor Dewhurst Speaker Straus Sen. Williams / Sen. Nelson Rep. Pitts / Rep. Zerwas	TP legislative priority: TP secured an additional \$7.9 million in the budget for Texas Home Visiting Programs	Approved in Budget	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
	TexProtects led the effort to secure an additional \$7.9 million for home visiting programs in Texas in addition to the \$17.75 million in the 2014-2015 budget for the Nurse-Family Partnership. The combined \$7.9 million and \$2 million estimated from SB 1836, the vital statistic donation bill, will help serve approximately 2,950 additional families through home visiting over the 2014-2015 biennium.			
Child Protective Services Funding SB1	Article II Workgroup/Key Budget Decision Makers: Senator Nelson Rep. Zerwas /Rep. Dukes	TP assisted with securing additional funds as a top funding priority	Approved in Budget	<i>Signed by Governor</i>
	TexProtects assisted in helping to restore millions in funding cuts to Child Protective Services this session, primarily regarding prevention funding.			
Home Visiting Expansion and Accountability Act SB 426	Senator Nelson Sen. Deuell/West (Co-Authors) Representative Zerwas (Sponsor)	TP legislation	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 least 75% of state revenues invested in home visiting are directed toward evidence-based programs, and allow up to 25% of the funds to be invested in "Promising Practices."			
Vital Statistic Donation for Texas HV Program SB 1836	Senator Deuell Representative Zerwas (Sponsor)	TP legislation	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 6/14/13</i>
	This legislation allows for voluntary donations on copies of birth certificates, marriage licenses and divorce decrees and initial marriage license applications to go towards the Texas Home Visiting Program. Could potentially raise an additional \$2 million per biennium for the THVP.			
Child Protection Act SB 939 <i>Companion HB 2495</i>	Senator West Senator Uresti (Co-Author) Rep. Parker/Miller, R (Sponsors)	TP legislation	Passed Both Chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation requires institutions of higher education to train certain staff and schools and charter schools to provide professional training to all staff on preventing, recognizing, and reporting suspected child abuse. Ensure all these institutions implement written recognition and reporting policies consistent with state mandatory reporting laws to avert "inside" reporting exclusively.			
Council on Children and Families Carve-out SB 1788 via SB 44	Senator Uresti	TP greatly assisted with formulation and passage A portion of SB 1788 was amended onto SB 44	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation expands the purview of the Council on Children and Families to cover prevention services to children and families.			

Record Access for Court Appointed Evaluators SB 330 <i>Companion</i> HB 1922	Senator Huffman Senator West (Co-Author) Rep. Thompson, S (Sponsor)	TP greatly assisted with formulation and passage	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 cases.			
Placement Stability and Permanency for Foster Youth HB 3399 via SB 534 <i>Companion</i> SB 1789	Representative Raymond Senator Uresti (Sponsor)	TP greatly assisted with formulation and passage A portion of HB 3999 was amended onto SB 534	Passed Both chambers	<i>Law Effective 9/1/13</i>
	This legislation will require information on placement disruptions to be sent to the caseworker and the court.			
Education Success for Foster Children SB 1404	Senator Patrick & Uresti Representative Parker (Sponsor)	TP greatly assisted with formulation and passage	Passed Both Chambers	<i>Law Effective 6/14/13</i>
	This legislation allows for greater flexibility in order to graduate (student could graduate from transfer school), ensure a high school student is on track to graduate upon enrollment in new school, award partial credit for coursework completed, and excuse school absences related to students being in foster care with an opportunity for appropriate makeup work.			
Greater Access to Protective Orders SB 130	Senator Nelson Senator Garcia (Co-Author) Representative Lewis (Sponsor)	TP greatly assisted with formulation and passage	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.			
Increase Penalty for Failure to Report Child Abuse HB 1205 <i>Companion</i> SB 384	Rep. Parker / Raymond / Zerwas / Fallon / Naishtat (Joint Authors) Rep. Miller, R / Price / Simmons / Wu (Co-Authors) Senator Carona (Sponsor)	TP legislation	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 deceive. Penalties could range from the current Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony.			
CPS Retention & Recruitment Task Force SB 1758	Senator Uresti Representative Zerwas (Sponsor)	TP legislation	Passed Senate and Died on the House Calendar due to deadline	<i>Failed to Pass Died on Last House Calendar</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 examine performance-based compensation and recognition system to improve retention and recruitment of CPS caseworkers.			
CPS Dismissals Orders SB 429 <i>Companion</i> HB 1684	Senator Nelson Representative Raymond (Sponsor)	TP greatly assisted with formulation and passage	Passed Both Chambers	<i>Failed to Pass Vetoed by Governor</i>
	This legislation ensures that before approving the dismissal of a CPS suit, judges are required to consider whether any child support, visitation, or other orders affecting the children should be entered.			