

HB 3159 -- LEGAL SERVICES FOR UNDOCUMENTED MINORS

SPONSOR: Thomas

This bill establishes the "Children's Due Process Protection Act".

All immigrant children, as that term is defined in the bill, under 18 years of age must be provided legal counsel from the Department of Social Services, subject to appropriation.

The appointment of legal counsel to immigrant children will follow certain procedures, as described in the bill. The Department will contract with the following entities to provide legal counsel required:

- (1) Nonprofit legal services organizations with at least three years of appropriate experience and having represented at least 25 immigrant children; and
- (2) The Office of the Public Defender, if the office has an immigration attorney with at least three years of appropriate experience and has represented at least 20 immigrant children.