

1-1 By: Bucy, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Huffman) H.B. No. 3765
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2023;
 1-3 May 11, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Finance;
 1-4 May 15, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 15,
 1-5 Nays 2; May 15, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14		X		
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21		X		
1-22	X			
1-23	X			
1-24	X			

1-25 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-26 AN ACT

1-27 relating to the establishment of a supply of luggage by the
 1-28 Department of Family and Protective Services for the transport of
 1-29 the personal belongings of a foster child.

1-30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-31 SECTION 1. Section 263.008(b), Family Code, is amended to
 1-32 read as follows:

1-33 (b) It is the policy of this state that each child in foster
 1-34 care be informed of the child's rights provided by state or federal
 1-35 law or policy that relate to:

1-36 (1) abuse, neglect, exploitation, discrimination, and
 1-37 harassment;

1-38 (2) food, clothing, shelter, and education;

1-39 (3) luggage to transport the child's personal
 1-40 belongings;

1-41 (4) medical, dental, vision, and mental health
 1-42 services, including the right of the child to consent to treatment;

1-43 (5) [~~(4)~~] emergency behavioral intervention,
 1-44 including what methods are permitted, the conditions under which it
 1-45 may be used, and the precautions that must be taken when
 1-46 administering it;

1-47 (6) [~~(5)~~] placement with the child's siblings and
 1-48 contact with members of the child's family;

1-49 (7) [~~(6)~~] privacy and searches, including the use of
 1-50 storage space, mail, and the telephone;

1-51 (8) [~~(7)~~] participation in school-related
 1-52 extracurricular or community activities;

1-53 (9) [~~(8)~~] interaction with persons outside the foster
 1-54 care system, including teachers, church members, mentors, and
 1-55 friends;

1-56 (10) [~~(9)~~] contact and communication with
 1-57 caseworkers, attorneys ad litem, guardians ad litem, and
 1-58 court-appointed special advocates;

1-59 (11) [~~(10)~~] religious services and activities;

1-60 (12) [~~(11)~~] confidentiality of the child's records;

1-61 (13) [~~(12)~~] job skills, personal finances, and

2-1 preparation for adulthood;
 2-2 (14) [~~(13)~~] participation in a court hearing that
 2-3 involves the child;
 2-4 (15) [~~(14)~~] participation in the development of
 2-5 service and treatment plans;
 2-6 (16) [~~(15)~~] if the child has a disability, the
 2-7 advocacy and protection of the rights of a person with that
 2-8 disability; and
 2-9 (17) [~~(16)~~] any other matter affecting the child's
 2-10 ability to receive care and treatment in the least restrictive
 2-11 environment that is most like a family setting, consistent with the
 2-12 best interests and needs of the child.

2-13 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
 2-14 amended by adding Section 264.1078 to read as follows:

2-15 Sec. 264.1078. LUGGAGE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN. (a) In this
 2-16 section, "luggage" means a suitcase, duffel bag, backpack, or
 2-17 similar container designed to hold an individual's personal
 2-18 belongings.

2-19 (b) The department shall:

2-20 (1) establish and maintain a decentralized supply of
 2-21 luggage to be used to transport a foster child's personal
 2-22 belongings; and

2-23 (2) develop procedures for the storage and
 2-24 distribution of luggage.

2-25 (c) The department shall provide luggage to a child who is
 2-26 being removed from the child's home or changing placement. Luggage
 2-27 provided to a child under this subsection belongs to the child and
 2-28 may not be reclaimed by the department or retained by the child's
 2-29 foster parent. The department is not required to provide new
 2-30 luggage under this subsection to a child who is changing placement
 2-31 and has the luggage previously provided by the department.

2-32 (d) The department shall maintain a record of each time a
 2-33 trash bag is used to move a foster child's personal belongings. The
 2-34 record must include the reason the department did not provide the
 2-35 child with appropriate luggage to move the child's personal
 2-36 belongings.

2-37 (e) The department shall submit an annual report to the
 2-38 legislature that includes a summary of:

2-39 (1) the number of times a trash bag was used to
 2-40 transport a foster child's personal belongings and the reasons the
 2-41 department failed to provide the child with appropriate luggage;
 2-42 and

2-43 (2) the department's supply inventory and inventory
 2-44 management practices for the luggage supply maintained under
 2-45 Subsection (b).

2-46 (f) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
 2-47 donations of any kind and from any source for purposes of this
 2-48 section.

2-49 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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