

By: Hull

H.B. No. 4894

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to monetary assistance provided by the Department of Family and Protective Services to certain parents.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.208 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.208. MONITORED RETURN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) If a court has rendered an order under Section 263.403 providing for the monitored return of a child to a parent, the department shall provide monetary assistance under this section for the duration of the monitoring period to a parent who:

(1) has a family income that is less than or equal to 300 percent of the federal poverty level; and

(2) demonstrates to the department that economic factors, including unemployment or inability to afford housing, transportation, utilities, food, medical care, mental health care, or child care are the main barrier to reunification.

(b) The department shall disburse monetary assistance provided to a parent under Subsection (a) in the same manner as the department disburses payments to a foster parent, including making a rate increase effective on the same date the department implements a rate increase for the minimum daily foster care reimbursement rate.

(c) The department, at its discretion and for good cause,

1 may extend the monetary assistance payments for an additional six
2 months after the date the case is dismissed to support family
3 stability after reunification.

4 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to an
5 order rendered under Section [263.403](#), Family Code, regardless of
6 whether the order was rendered before, on, or after the effective
7 date of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.