

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 681

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to policies and procedures of the Department of Family and
3 Protective Services, including regarding service plans and
4 post-removal assessments.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 263.1021, Family Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

8 (c-1) If the department does not accept the certification
9 from a service provider under Subsection (c), not later than the
10 48th hour after the department issues the denial, the department
11 shall notify the parent's state representative, the parent's state
12 senator, and the department's office of internal affairs about the
13 department's denial of the certification and the reason for the
14 denial.

15 SECTION 2. Section 264.1076, Family Code, is amended by
16 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

17 (b-1) In addition to the medical examination required by
18 Subsection (b), the department shall ensure that not later than the
19 end of the 15th day after the date a child described by Subsection
20 (a) is removed from the child's home, the child receives:

21 (1) a child and adolescent needs and strengths
22 assessment; and

23 (2) a medical checkup conducted in accordance with the
24 Texas Health Steps program.

1 SECTION 3. Section 264.1076(b-1), Family Code, as added by
2 this Act, applies only to a child who enters the conservatorship of
3 the Department of Family and Protective Services on or after the
4 effective date of this Act. A child who enters the conservatorship
5 of the Department of Family and Protective Services before the
6 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
7 date the child entered the conservatorship of the department, and
8 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
10 a suit filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services on
11 or after the effective date of this Act. A suit filed by the
12 department before that date is governed by the law in effect on the
13 date the suit was filed, and the former law is continued in effect
14 for that purpose.

15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.