

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 1460

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a task force to locate relatives
3 and certain individuals and to the procedures for providing notice
4 to certain individuals on placement of a child in the managing
5 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective
6 Services.

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

8 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 262, Family Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 262.1091 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 262.1091. TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE RELATIVES
11 AND CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS. (a) In this section:

12 (1) "Department" means the Department of Family and
13 Protective Services.

14 (2) "Task force" means the task force created under
15 this section.

16 (b) The department shall establish a task force for the
17 purpose of identifying and locating:

18 (1) relatives of each child who the department or
19 another governmental entity takes possession of under this chapter;
20 and

21 (2) any individual who has a long-standing and
22 significant relationship with a child described by Subdivision (1).

23 (c) The task force is composed of 15 members as follows:

24 (1) one member from the Department of Public Safety,

1 appointed by the director of the Department of Public Safety;

2 (2) one member of the criminal investigations division
3 of the office of the attorney general, appointed by the attorney
4 general;

5 (3) one member from the municipal police department of
6 each of the six most populous municipalities in this state,
7 appointed by the police chief of the municipal police department;
8 and

9 (4) seven members appointed by the commissioner of the
10 department who must be:

11 (A) active, non-active, or retired police
12 detectives who have been employed as a detective for at least 10
13 years and have experience working with special victims; or

14 (B) private investigators who:

15 (i) are licensed in this state;

16 (ii) are in good standing with the
17 licensing entity;

18 (iii) have at least 10 years of
19 investigative experience; and

20 (iv) have experience working with special
21 victims.

22 (d) Each appointing authority may confer with the office of
23 the governor when considering candidates for the task force.

24 (e) The task force shall:

25 (1) begin locating and identifying each individual
26 described by Section 262.1095(a) not later than 24 hours after the
27 department or another governmental entity takes possession of a

1 child under this chapter;

2 (2) use due diligence to identify and locate all
3 individuals described by Section 262.1095(a) not later than 72
4 hours after the department files a suit affecting the parent-child
5 relationship;

6 (3) in order to identify and locate the individuals
7 described by Section 262.1095(a), seek information from:

8 (A) each parent, relative, and alleged father of
9 the child; and

10 (B) the child in an age-appropriate manner; and

11 (4) immediately notify the department when an
12 individual described by Section 262.1095(a) is identified and
13 located.

14 (f) The failure of a parent or alleged father of the child to
15 complete the proposed child placement resources form does not
16 relieve the task force of its duty to seek information from each
17 person described by Subsection (e)(3) to identify individuals
18 described by Section 262.1095(a).

19 (g) The commissioner of the department and the internal
20 audit division of the department shall supervise and provide
21 administrative support to the task force.

22 SECTION 2. Section 262.1095, Family Code, is amended by
23 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

24 (f) Not later than 120 hours after the department files a
25 suit affecting the parent-child relationship, the department shall
26 report to the child's state representative, the child's state
27 senator, and the governor:

1 (1) whether the department:

2 (A) identified all of the individuals related to
3 the child within the fourth degree by consanguinity as determined
4 under Chapter 573, Government Code; and

5 (B) contacted each individual and provided the
6 information required by Subsection (a); and

7 (2) the reason the department failed to contact an
8 individual described by Subdivision (1)(A).

9 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 262, Family Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 262.117 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 262.117. REPORTING INFORMATION ON RELATIVE
12 PLACEMENTS. Not later than February 1 of each year, the department
13 shall report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker
14 of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature
15 the following information with respect to cases in which the
16 department was named managing conservator of a child during the
17 preceding fiscal year:

18 (1) the total percentage of individuals identified as
19 being related to the child within the fourth degree by
20 consanguinity as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, the
21 department was unable to contact as required by Section 262.1095
22 and the reason the department was unable to contact each
23 individual;

24 (2) the percentage of children in the conservatorship
25 of the department who were placed with a relative or other
26 designated caregiver;

27 (3) the percentage of children in the conservatorship

1 of the department who were placed in foster care;

2 (4) the total number of children in the
3 conservatorship of the department who were placed with a relative
4 or other designated caregiver;

5 (5) the total number of children in the
6 conservatorship of the department who were placed in foster care
7 and, for each child, the reasons the department did not place the
8 child with a relative or other designated caregiver; and

9 (6) any legislative or other recommendations to ensure
10 the department contacts all of a child's relatives identified under
11 Section [262.1095](#).

12 SECTION 4. Sections [262.1095](#)(d) and (e), Family Code, are
13 repealed.

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