

By: Puente

H.B. No. 614

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to foster care payments for certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.101, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(a-1) The department shall continue to pay the cost of foster care for a child for whom the department provides care, including medical care, until the later of:

(1) the date the child attains the age of 18; or

(2) the date the child graduates from high school or ceases to be enrolled in a secondary school in a program leading toward a high school diploma.

(d) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission [~~Board of Protective and Regulatory Services~~] may adopt rules that establish criteria and guidelines for the payment of foster care, including medical care, for a child and for providing care for a child after the child becomes 18 years of age if the child is regularly attending [~~high school,~~] an institution of higher education[~~7~~] or a vocational or technical program.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a child who is in foster care on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.