

1-1 By: Puente (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 614
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2005;
1-3 April 26, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 5, 2005, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 5, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to foster care payments for certain children.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Section 264.101, Family Code, is amended by
1-11 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as
1-12 follows:

1-13 (a-1) The department shall continue to pay the cost of
1-14 foster care for a child for whom the department provides care,
1-15 including medical care, until the later of:

1-16 (1) the date the child attains the age of 18; or

1-17 (2) the date the child graduates from high school or
1-18 ceases to be enrolled in a secondary school in a program leading
1-19 toward a high school diploma.

1-20 (d) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
1-21 Services Commission [~~Board of Protective and Regulatory Services~~]
1-22 may adopt rules that establish criteria and guidelines for the
1-23 payment of foster care, including medical care, for a child and for
1-24 providing care for a child after the child becomes 18 years of age
1-25 if the child is regularly attending [~~high school,~~] an institution
1-26 of higher education[~~r~~] or a vocational or technical program.

1-27 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
1-28 to a child who is in foster care on or after the effective date of
1-29 this Act.

1-30 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-31 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-32 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-33 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-34 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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