

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 1296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to providing monetary assistance to certain grandparents  
3 caring for their grandchildren.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,  
6 is amended by adding Section 40.074 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 40.074. GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS PROGRAM. (a) The  
8 department shall develop and implement a grandparents as caregivers  
9 program through which a grandparent who is appointed permanent  
10 managing conservator of the person's grandchild and whose household  
11 income does not exceed 130 percent of the federal poverty level may  
12 receive monthly monetary assistance to provide for the needs of the  
13 grandchild.

14 (b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a  
15 grandparent who is eligible for monetary assistance under the  
16 program may receive a maximum of \$200 each month for each grandchild  
17 who is 17 years of age or younger and for whom the grandparent is  
18 appointed permanent managing conservator. A grandparent may not  
19 receive more than \$600 each month through the program.

20 (c) To provide the monetary assistance, the department  
21 shall use appropriated funds and any federal funds available for  
22 that purpose.

23 (d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules as  
24 necessary to implement the program, including rules providing for:

1           (1) an application and eligibility determination  
2 process; and

3           (2) the method by which the monthly monetary  
4 assistance is provided to the grandparent.

5           (e) Monetary assistance may be provided under this section  
6 to a grandparent in addition to any supplemental financial  
7 assistance for which the grandparent is eligible under Section  
8 31.0041.

9           SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2007, the executive  
10 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
11 adopt rules for, and the Department of Family and Protective  
12 Services shall implement, the grandparents as caregivers program  
13 under Section 40.074, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.

14           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.