

1-1 By: Pierson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Nelson) H.B. No. 3008
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2007;
1-3 May 15, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 18, 2007, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 18, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the establishment of a pilot program to match certain
1-9 teens in foster care with adult mentors.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
1-12 amended by adding Section 264.1165 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 264.1165. MENTORSHIP PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
1-14 department shall establish a pilot program under which the
1-15 department contracts with a private or nonprofit entity to pair
1-16 children in foster care in Tarrant County, Denton County, Dallas
1-17 County, and Collin County who are 14 years of age or older with
1-18 volunteer adult mentors in order to foster relationships of support
1-19 and guidance in preparation for the children's transition to adult
1-20 living.

1-21 (b) The private or nonprofit entity selected by the
1-22 department to administer the program must have a demonstrated
1-23 record of successfully providing services similar to those provided
1-24 under the program.

1-25 (c) Children in foster care who qualify for participation in
1-26 the program may participate on a voluntary basis.

1-27 (d) An individual who volunteers as a mentor under the
1-28 program is subject to state and national criminal background checks
1-29 in accordance with Sections 411.087 and 411.114, Government Code.

1-30 (e) The department shall encourage substitute care
1-31 providers to facilitate participation in the program by a child who
1-32 chooses to voluntarily participate in the program.

1-33 (f) The executive commissioner may adopt rules for the
1-34 administration of this section.

1-35 (g) The department shall report to the lieutenant governor,
1-36 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the members of the
1-37 legislature not later than January 1, 2011, on the activities
1-38 conducted under the pilot program. The report must include the
1-39 department's recommendations on improvements to the program and
1-40 whether the program should be continued on a statewide basis.

1-41 (h) The department shall contract with a public institution
1-42 of higher education located in the geographic area served by the
1-43 pilot program for the institution to conduct an evaluation of the
1-44 effectiveness of the program. The institution selected to conduct
1-45 an evaluation under this subsection shall report its findings to
1-46 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
1-47 representatives, and the members of the legislature not later than
1-48 January 1, 2011. The report must include the institution's:

1-49 (1) assessment of the effectiveness of the program;
1-50 and

1-51 (2) recommendations on improvements to the program and
1-52 whether the program should be continued on a statewide basis.

1-53 (i) This section expires September 1, 2011.

1-54 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-55 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-56 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-57 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-58 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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