

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 982

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain grandparents for foster care payments.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.101, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) The department may pay the cost of foster care for a child:

(1) for whom the department has initiated a suit and has been named managing conservator under an order rendered under this title, who is a resident of the state, and who has been placed by the department:

(A) in a foster home or child-care institution, as defined by Chapter 42, Human Resources Code; or

(B) with a grandparent of the child; or

(2) who is under the placement and care of a state agency or political subdivision with which the department has entered into an agreement to reimburse the cost of care and supervision of the child.

(a-2) In paying for foster care provided by a grandparent, the department may give priority to providing payment to grandparents with incomes below the federal poverty level who do not have access to other forms of financial assistance.

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