

Amend SB 1369 by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS to the bill and renumbering the remaining SECTIONS of the bill appropriately:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Section 264.601(2), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Volunteer advocate program" means a volunteer-based, nonprofit program that:

(A) provides advocacy services to abused or neglected children with the goal of obtaining a permanent placement for a child that is in the child's best interest; and

(B) complies with recognized standards for volunteer advocate programs.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Section 264.602, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) The statewide organization with which the attorney general contracts under Section 264.603 shall contract for services with eligible volunteer advocate programs to provide advocacy services to abused or neglected children [~~expand the existing services of the programs~~].

(f) Expenses incurred by a volunteer advocate program to promote public awareness of the need for volunteer advocates or to explain the work performed by volunteer advocates that are paid with money from the attorney general volunteer advocate program account under Section 504.611, Transportation Code, are not considered administrative expenses for the purpose of Section 264.603(b).

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Section 264.603(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The attorney general shall contract with one statewide organization of individuals or groups of individuals who have expertise in the dynamics of child abuse and neglect and experience in operating volunteer advocate programs to provide training, technical assistance, and evaluation services for the benefit of local volunteer advocate programs. The contract shall:

(1) include [require] measurable goals and objectives relating to the number of:

(A) volunteer advocates in the program; and  
(B) children receiving services from the  
program; and

(2) follow practices designed to ensure compliance  
with standards referenced in the contract [~~for expanding local~~  
~~volunteer child advocate programs to areas of the state in which~~  
~~those programs do not exist~~].

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Section 264.604(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person is eligible for a contract under Section 264.602 only if the person is a public or private nonprofit entity that operates a volunteer advocate program that:

(1) uses individuals appointed as volunteer advocates or guardians ad litem by the court to provide for the needs of abused or neglected children;

(2) has provided court-appointed advocacy services for at least six months [~~two years~~];

(3) provides court-appointed advocacy services for at least 10 children each month; and

(4) has demonstrated that the program has local judicial support.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. Sections 264.607(b) and (c), Family Code, are repealed.