

By: Shapiro, et al.

S.B. No. 1062

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1062:

By: Rose

C.S.S.B. No. 1062

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating an online resource center for individuals handling child abuse and neglect cases.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

Sec. 264.821. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Communications tool" means an online method for peer-to-peer communication among individuals who handle child abuse and neglect cases.

(2) "Office" means the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System.

(3) "Online resource center" means a single interactive Internet website that provides, to individuals who handle child abuse and neglect cases, timely informational materials pertinent to child abuse and neglect cases in this state, which may include summaries of Texas cases and statutes relating to child abuse and neglect, sample briefs and other legal forms, articles and papers, manuals with information on Texas legal practice and practice tips, a conference calendar, and communications tools.

Sec. 264.822. CONTRACT. (a) The office shall contract with an entity to provide an online resource center if:

1 (1) the office is specifically appropriated money in
2 an amount adequate to provide the online resource center; and

3 (2) there is a qualified entity with whom the office is
4 able to contract.

5 (b) The online resource center must:

6 (1) provide a means of searching for informational
7 materials by subject; and

8 (2) include a:

9 (A) communications tool for judges; and

10 (B) communications tool for attorneys.

11 (c) The contract under this section must prohibit the entity
12 with which the office contracts from spending more than 12 percent
13 of the contract price on the entity's indirect or administrative
14 overhead expenses.

15 (d) If the office does not enter into a contract in
16 accordance with this subchapter, the office may not receive the
17 funds appropriated to the office in connection with this
18 subchapter.

19 Sec. 264.823. ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTRACT. The entity with
20 which the office contracts under this subchapter must:

21 (1) have experience in operating an online resource
22 center specifically designed for judges and attorneys handling
23 child abuse and neglect cases in this state;

24 (2) have experience in providing a communications
25 tool; and

26 (3) employ or contract with at least one attorney who
27 is licensed to practice law in this state and who specializes in

1 child abuse and neglect cases to compile the materials for and
2 oversee the operation of the online resource center.

3 Sec. 264.824. FUNDING. (a) The entity with which the
4 office contracts under this subchapter may obtain funding from
5 private foundations and individuals, from state and federal grants,
6 and from any other source to operate the online resource center.

7 (b) The entity must maintain and provide to the office
8 records that adequately identify:

9 (1) each person who provided funds to the entity to
10 operate the online resource center; and

11 (2) the amount of funds the person provided.

12 Sec. 264.825. CONFIDENTIALITY. All communications
13 conducted through a communications tool provided in connection with
14 the online resource center implemented under this subchapter are
15 privileged and confidential.

16 SECTION 2. This Act does not make an appropriation. A
17 provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program,
18 creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental
19 entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the
20 legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the
21 provision.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.