

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1723

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an informational manual for voluntary caregivers who
3 provide temporary care for children who are the subject of an
4 investigation by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 261.3071, Family Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 261.3071. INFORMATIONAL MANUALS. (a) In this
9 section:

10 (1) "Designated caregiver" and~~[r]~~ "relative
11 caregiver" [~~and "designated caregiver"~~] have the meanings assigned
12 those terms by Section 264.751.

13 (2) "Voluntary caregiver" means a person who
14 voluntarily agrees to provide temporary care for a child:

15 (A) who is the subject of an investigation by the
16 department or whose parent, managing conservator, possessory
17 conservator, guardian, caretaker, or custodian is receiving
18 family-based safety services from the department;

19 (B) who is not in the conservatorship of the
20 department; and

21 (C) who is placed in the care of the person by the
22 parent or other person having legal custody of the child.

23 (b) The department shall develop and publish informational
24 manuals that provide information for:

1 (1) a parent or other person having custody of a child
2 who is the subject of an investigation under this chapter; ~~and~~

3 (2) a person who is selected by the department to be
4 the child's relative or designated caregiver; and

5 (3) a voluntary caregiver.

6 (c) Information provided in the manuals must be in both
7 English and Spanish and must include, as appropriate:

8 (1) useful indexes of information such as telephone
9 numbers;

10 (2) the information required to be provided under
11 Section 261.307(a)(1);

12 (3) information describing the rights and duties of a
13 relative or designated caregiver; ~~and~~

14 (4) information regarding the relative and other
15 designated caregiver program under Subchapter I, Chapter 264; and

16 (5) information regarding the role of a voluntary
17 caregiver, including information on how to obtain any documentation
18 necessary to provide for a child's needs.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.