

By: Nash

H.B. No. 2706

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study of child abuse or neglect committed by a foster child against another foster child.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 261, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 261.313 to read as follows:

Sec. 261.313. ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY FOSTER CHILD. (a) The department shall review investigations of child abuse or neglect in which the department has determined abuse or neglect was committed by a child in foster care against another child in foster care. Based on the information from the review, the department shall analyze the factors that contribute to abuse or neglect described by this subsection and make recommendations regarding:

(1) methods of identifying a child in foster care who is at risk of abuse or neglect from another child in foster care;

(2) services necessary to prevent abuse or neglect between one or more children in foster care;

(3) whether a report of abuse or neglect committed by a child in foster care should be included in the central registry of abuse or neglect; and

(4) for cases in which the abuse or neglect results in a criminal charge against a foster child, whether the child's record should be expunged after a certain period has elapsed with no further acts of abuse or neglect committed by the child.

1 (b) Not later than December 31, 2012, the department shall
2 report the results of the review and analysis and make
3 recommendations under this section to the governor, the lieutenant
4 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
5 standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over the
6 department.

7 (c) This section expires January 1, 2014.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.