

By: Strama

H.B. No. 2111

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the transitional living services program for certain  
3 youth in foster care.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 264.121, Family Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsections (a-1) and (f) and adding Subsection (g) to  
7 read as follows:

8 (a-1) The department shall require a foster care provider to  
9 provide or assist youth who are age 14 or older in obtaining  
10 experiential life-skills training to improve their transition to  
11 independent living. Experiential life-skills training must be  
12 tailored to a youth's skills and abilities and must ~~may~~ include  
13 training in practical activities that include grocery shopping,  
14 meal preparation and cooking, ~~[using public transportation,]~~  
15 performing basic household tasks, ~~[and]~~ balancing a checkbook, and,  
16 when appropriate, using public transportation.

17 (f) The department shall require a person with whom the  
18 department contracts for transitional living services for foster  
19 youth to provide or assist youth in obtaining:

- 20 (1) housing services;  
21 (2) job training and employment services;  
22 (3) college preparation services;  
23 (4) services that will assist youth in obtaining a  
24 general education development certificate; ~~[and]~~

1           (5) services that will assist youth in developing  
2 skills in food preparation;

3           (6) nutrition education that promotes healthy food  
4 choices; and

5           (7) [~~5~~] any other appropriate transitional living  
6 service identified by the department.

7           (g) An entity with which the department contracts for  
8 transitional living services for foster youth shall, when  
9 appropriate, partner with a community-based organization to assist  
10 the entity in providing the transitional living services.

11           SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
12 a person who enters into a contract with the Department of Family  
13 and Protective Services to provide transitional living services for  
14 foster youth on or after the effective date of this Act.

15           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.