

By: West  
(Zerwas)

S.B. No. 502

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to placement of children with certain relatives or other designated caregivers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.7541 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.7541. CAREGIVER VISIT WITH CHILD; INFORMATION.

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), before placing a child with a proposed relative or other designated caregiver, the department must:

(1) arrange a visit between the child and the proposed caregiver; and

(2) provide the proposed caregiver with a form, which may be the same form the department provides to nonrelative caregivers, containing information, to the extent it is available, about the child that would enhance continuity of care for the child, including:

(A) the child's school information and educational needs;

(B) the child's medical, dental, and mental health care information;

(C) the child's social and family information;  
and

(D) any other information about the child the

1 department determines will assist the proposed caregiver in meeting  
2 the child's needs.

3 (b) The department may waive the requirements of Subsection  
4 (a) if the proposed relative or other designated caregiver has a  
5 long-standing or significant relationship with the child and has  
6 provided care for the child at any time during the 12 months  
7 preceding the date of the proposed placement.

8 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 264.755, Family Code, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (b) Monetary assistance provided under this section must  
11 include a one-time cash payment [~~of not more than \$1,000~~] to the  
12 caregiver on the initial placement of a child or a sibling group.  
13 The amount of the cash payment, as determined by the department, may  
14 not exceed \$1,000 for each child. The payment for placement of a  
15 sibling group must be at least \$1,000 for the group, but may not  
16 exceed \$1,000 for each child in the group. The cash payment must be  
17 provided on the initial placement of each child with the caregiver  
18 and is provided to assist the caregiver in purchasing essential  
19 child-care items such as furniture and clothing.

20 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
21 to the placement of a child for whom the Department of Family and  
22 Protective Services is named managing conservator on or after the  
23 effective date of this Act.

24 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Subsection  
25 (b), Section 264.755, Family Code, does not make an appropriation  
26 or require a specific appropriation. The new duty imposed on the  
27 Department of Family and Protective Services as a result of the

1 changes to that section must be performed through the  
2 appropriations provided by the legislature as part of the existing  
3 responsibilities of the department.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.