

By: Williams

S.B. No. 963

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the use of an Internet application to allow access by
3 court-appointed volunteer advocates to child protective services
4 case information.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 264.614 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 264.614. INTERNET APPLICATION FOR CASE TRACKING AND
9 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. (a) Subject to the availability of
10 money as described by Subsection (c), the department shall develop
11 an Internet application that allows a court-appointed volunteer
12 advocate representing a child in the managing conservatorship of
13 the department to access the child's case file through the
14 department's automated case tracking and information management
15 system and to add the volunteer advocate's findings and reports to
16 the child's case file.

17 (b) The court-appointed volunteer advocate shall maintain
18 the confidentiality required by this chapter and department rule
19 for the information accessed by the advocate through the system
20 described by Subsection (a).

21 (c) The department may not use money other than money
22 received as a gift, grant, or donation to pay for the costs of
23 developing and maintaining the Internet application required by
24 Subsection (a). The department may solicit and accept gifts,

1 grants, and donations of any kind and from any source for purposes
2 of this section.

3 (d) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
4 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement this
5 section.

6 SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
7 date of this Act, the Department of Family and Protective Services
8 shall solicit money and develop the Internet application as
9 required by Section 264.614, Family Code, as added by this Act.

10 (b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this
11 Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services
12 Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement Section
13 264.614, Family Code, as added by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.