

By: Zaffirini, Uresti

S.B. No. 1589

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to assistance and education regarding personal finance for certain children in foster care.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.121, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a-1) and (f) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

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

(a-2) The experiential life-skills training under Subsection (a-1) must include a financial literacy education program that:

(1) includes instruction on:

(A) obtaining and interpreting a credit score;

(B) protecting, repairing, and improving a credit score;

(C) avoiding predatory lending practices;

(D) saving money and accomplishing financial

1 goals through prudent financial management practices;

2 (E) using basic banking and accounting skills,
3 including balancing a checkbook;

4 (F) using debit and credit cards responsibly;

5 (G) understanding a paycheck and items withheld
6 from a paycheck; and

7 (H) protecting financial, credit, and
8 identifying information in personal and professional
9 relationships; and

10 (2) assists a youth who has a source of income to
11 establish a savings plan and, if available, a savings account that
12 the youth can independently manage.

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

16 (1) housing services;

17 (2) job training and employment services;

18 (3) college preparation services;

19 (4) services that will assist youth in obtaining a
20 general education development certificate; ~~and~~

21 (5) a savings or checking account if the youth is at
22 least 18 years of age and has a source of income; and

23 (6) any other appropriate transitional living service
24 identified by the department.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.