

House Bill 1227
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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

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

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

(c) The department may not use money other than money received as a gift, grant, or donation to pay for the costs of developing and maintaining the Internet application required by Subsection (a). The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations of any kind and from any source for purposes of this section.

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

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

SENATE VERSION (CS)

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

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

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

(c) The department may use money appropriated to the department and money received as a gift, grant, or donation to pay for the costs of developing and maintaining the Internet application required by Subsection (a). The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations of any kind and from any source for purposes of this section.

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

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

CONFERENCE

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

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

SENATE VERSION (CS)

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

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE