

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 1217

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to reporting information for certain foster children who  
3 are missing or are victims of sex trafficking.

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

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 264.123, Family Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 264.123. REPORTS CONCERNING CHILDREN WHO ARE MISSING  
8 OR VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING [~~CHILD~~].

9 SECTION 2. Section 264.123, Family Code, is amended by  
10 amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read  
11 as follows:

12 (f) After a missing child returns to the child's substitute  
13 care provider, the department shall interview the child to  
14 determine the reasons why the child was missing, ~~and~~ where the  
15 child stayed during the time the child was missing, and whether,  
16 while missing, the child was a victim of conduct that constitutes an  
17 offense under Section 20A.02(a)(7), Penal Code. The department  
18 shall report to an appropriate law enforcement agency any  
19 disclosure made by a child that indicates that the child was the  
20 victim of a crime during the time the child was missing. The  
21 department shall make a report under this subsection not later than  
22 24 hours after the time the disclosure is made. The department is  
23 not required to interview a missing child under this subsection if,  
24 at the time the child returns, the department knows that the child

1 was abducted and another agency is investigating the abduction.

2 (g) The department shall collect information on each child  
3 in the department's managing conservatorship who is missing from  
4 the child's substitute care provider and on each child who, while in  
5 the department's managing conservatorship, is a victim of conduct  
6 that constitutes an offense under Section 20A.02(a)(7), Penal Code.  
7 The collected information must include information on:

8 (1) whether the managing conservatorship of the  
9 department is temporary or permanent;

10 (2) the type of substitute care in which the child is  
11 placed; and

12 (3) the child's sex, age, race, and ethnicity and the  
13 department region in which the child resides.

14 (h) The department shall prepare an annual report on the  
15 information collected under Subsection (g) and make the report  
16 available on the department's Internet website. The report may not  
17 include any individually identifiable information regarding a  
18 child who is the subject of information in the report.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.