

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 county of residence, sex, age, race,
13 and ethnicity.

14 (h) The department shall prepare a quarterly 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.