

By: Frank

H.B. No. 2655

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to day care assistance and to requiring the Department of Family and Protective Services to study the effectiveness of the relative and other designated caregiver program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.761 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.761. STUDY OF PROGRAM. (a) The department shall study the effectiveness of the relative and other designated caregiver placement program created by this subchapter and make recommendations on improvements to the program. Any such improvements should be designed to minimize the number of placements for each child, maximize efficiency in distribution of any monetary or other assistance for which caregivers qualify, facilitate safe and permanent exit from the managing conservatorship of the department in as timely a fashion as possible, and prepare caregivers for verification necessary to receive for foster care maintenance reimbursement. The recommendations may include increases to the dollar amount of assistance as well as the identification of automated or other processes designed to speed the payment of assistance.

(b) The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the legislature not later than January 1, 2017.

(c) This section expires September 1, 2017.