

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to housing services provided through the transitional living services program to certain children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 264.121, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i) The department shall ensure that the transition plan for each youth 16 years of age or older includes provisions to assist the youth in managing the youth's housing needs after the youth leaves foster care, including provisions that:

(1) identify the cost of housing in relation to the youth's sources of income, including any benefits or rental assistance available to the youth;

(2) if the youth's housing goals include residing with family or friends, state that the department has addressed the following with the youth:

(A) the length of time the youth expects to stay in the housing arrangement;

(B) expectations for the youth regarding paying rent and meeting other household obligations;

(C) the youth's psychological and emotional needs, as applicable; and

(D) any potential conflicts with other household

1 members, or any difficulties connected to the type of housing the  
2 youth is seeking, that may arise based on the youth's psychological  
3 and emotional needs;

4 (3) inform the youth about emergency shelters and  
5 housing resources, including supervised independent living and  
6 housing at colleges and universities, such as dormitories;

7 (4) require the department to review a common rental  
8 application with the youth and ensure that the youth possesses all  
9 of the documentation required to obtain rental housing; and

10 (5) identify any individuals who are able to serve as  
11 cosigners or references on the youth's applications for housing.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.