

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 of each youth age 16 and older includes provisions to assist the youth in managing housing needs after leaving foster care including:

(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) identify if one of the housing goals of the youth is to live with family or friends, that the department has addressed 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 members, or any difficulties connected to the type of housing the

1 youth is seeking, that may arise based on the youth's psychological
2 and emotional needs;

3 (3) inform the youth about emergency shelters and
4 housing resources;

5 (4) review a common rental application with the youth
6 and ensure they possess all of the documentation required to obtain
7 rental housing; and

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

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