**BILL ANALYSIS**

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| Senate Research Center | S.B. 78 |
|  | By: Nelson |
|  | Business & Commerce |
|  | 6/1/2017 |
|  | Enrolled |

**AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

S.B. 78 adds Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to the list of state entities eligible to receive used computers from the State of Texas. These computers will be available as a resource at CASA foster and group homes.

Access to computers for children involved with CASA:

* allows foster children to connect to all kinds of information and to become empowered and engaged;
* provides the opportunity for learning, bridging the digital divide, and giving children in foster care STEM learning opportunities through technology;
* helps foster children and youth stay on par with their classmates who have access to computers in their homes;
* and helps provide a sense of normalcy. (Original Author's / Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

S.B. 78 amends current law relating to the disposition of state surplus or salvage data processing equipment by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

**SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 497.012(b), Government Code, as follows:

(b) Requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to sell the repaired or refurbished data processing equipment, in the following order of preference, to:

(1) a school district;

(2) a state agency;

(3) a political subdivision of the state; or

(4) a statewide organization described by Section 264.603(a) (relating to the Health and Human Services Commission contracting with a statewide organization that meets certain criteria to provide assistance to certain local volunteer advocate programs), Family Code, or a local volunteer advocate program, as defined by Section 264.601 (Definitions), Family Code, for use by children or youth in foster care.

Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2017.