

By: Giddings

H.B. No. 3750

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to recruit young adults as foster parents.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.1252 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.1252. FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In this section, "young adult caregiver" means a person who:

(1) is at least 21 years of age but younger than 36 years of age; and

(2) provides foster care for children who are 14 years of age and older.

(b) The department shall establish a pilot program, with money appropriated for that purpose, to recruit and provide training and support for young adult caregivers. The program shall pay a young adult caregiver the daily foster care rate for each child who is placed with the caregiver and provide student loan repayment assistance or tuition assistance for the caregiver, as appropriate.

(c) The department shall contract with a child-placing agency to develop a model for recruiting and training young adult caregivers and to support the young adult caregivers during the pilot program. The department shall distribute the request for a proposal for the pilot program to existing child-placing agencies.

1 (d) The department shall appoint a full-time employee with
2 experience working with foster children who are 14 years of age and
3 older to:

4 (1) serve as a liaison between the department and the
5 contracting child-placing agency;

6 (2) offer assistance and support to each young adult
7 caregiver; and

8 (3) assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the
9 pilot program.

10 (e) Not later than January 1, 2018, the department or the
11 contracting child-placing agency shall select at least 30 young
12 adult caregivers to participate in the pilot program established
13 under this section.

14 (f) The department shall complete an evaluation of the pilot
15 program not later than December 31, 2018. The department shall
16 conduct the evaluation in collaboration with an institution of
17 higher education. In evaluating the effect the program had on the
18 foster children participating in the program, the department shall
19 consider whether the program has resulted in:

20 (1) increased placement stability;

21 (2) fewer behavioral issues;

22 (3) fewer instances of foster children running away
23 from a placement;

24 (4) increased satisfactory academic progress in
25 school;

26 (5) increased acquisition of independent living
27 skills; and

1 (6) an improved sense of well-being.

2 (g) The department shall submit a report evaluating the
3 pilot program to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the
4 house of representatives, and members of the legislature as soon as
5 possible after the evaluation is completed.

6 (h) This section expires September 1, 2019.

7 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
8 of this Act, the Department of Family and Protective Services shall
9 begin the request for proposal process, enter into a contract with a
10 child-placing agency, and establish the pilot program as required
11 by Section 264.1252, Family Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.