

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 879

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the eligibility of a person to serve as and receive
3 monetary assistance for serving as a relative or other designated
4 caregiver.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 264.754, Family Code, is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 Sec. 264.754. INVESTIGATION OF PROPOSED PLACEMENT. (a)
9 Before placing a child with a proposed relative or other designated
10 caregiver, the department must conduct an investigation to
11 determine whether the proposed placement is in the child's best
12 interest.

13 (b) The department may not disqualify a person from serving
14 as a relative or other designated caregiver for a child on the basis
15 that the proposed caregiver has been convicted of a nonviolent
16 criminal offense, if the department determines that placing the
17 child with the person is otherwise in the child's best interest.

18 SECTION 2. Section 264.755, Family Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

20 (f) In determining a family's need for monetary assistance,
21 the department shall exclude from a caregiver's available
22 resources:

23 (1) real property owned by the caregiver that is
24 homestead property; and

1 (2) the fair market value of the caregiver's ownership
2 interest in a motor vehicle, but not more than \$5,000 plus or minus
3 an amount to be determined annually beginning on October 1, 2017, to
4 reflect changes in the new car component of the Consumer Price Index
5 for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor
6 Statistics.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.