

By: Minjarez, Miller, Klick, Clardy

H.B. No. 53

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the transitional living services program for certain
3 youth in foster care.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 264.121(a-2) and (f), Family Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a-2) The experiential life-skills training under
8 Subsection (a-1) must include:

9 (1) a financial literacy education program developed
10 in collaboration with the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner
11 and the State Securities Board that:

12 (A) [~~1~~] includes instruction on:

13 (i) [~~A~~] obtaining and interpreting a
14 credit score;

15 (ii) [~~B~~] protecting, repairing, and
16 improving a credit score;

17 (iii) [~~C~~] avoiding predatory lending
18 practices;

19 (iv) [~~D~~] saving money and accomplishing
20 financial goals through prudent financial management practices;

21 (v) [~~E~~] using basic banking and
22 accounting skills, including balancing a checkbook;

23 (vi) [~~F~~] using debit and credit cards
24 responsibly;

1 (vii) [~~(C)~~] understanding a paycheck and
2 items withheld from a paycheck; [~~and~~]

3 (viii) understanding the time requirements
4 and process for filing federal taxes;

5 (ix) [~~(H)~~] protecting financial, credit,
6 and personally identifying information in personal and
7 professional relationships and online;

8 (x) forms of identity and credit theft; and

9 (xi) using insurance to protect against the
10 risk of financial loss; and

11 (B) [~~(2)~~] assists a youth who has a source of
12 income to:

13 (i) establish a savings plan and, if
14 available, a savings account that the youth can independently
15 manage; and

16 (ii) prepare a monthly budget that includes
17 the following expenses:

18 (a) rent based on the monthly rent for
19 an apartment advertised for lease during the preceding month;

20 (b) utilities based on a reasonable
21 utility bill in the area in which the youth resides;

22 (c) telephone service based on a
23 reasonable bill for telephone service in the area in which the youth
24 resides;

25 (d) Internet service based on a
26 reasonable bill for Internet service in the area in which the youth
27 resides; and

1 (e) other reasonable monthly
2 expenses; and

3 (2) for youth who are 17 years of age or older, lessons
4 related to:

5 (A) insurance, including applying for and
6 obtaining automobile insurance and residential property insurance,
7 including tenants insurance; and

8 (B) civic engagement, including the process for
9 registering to vote, the places to vote, and resources for
10 information regarding upcoming elections.

11 (f) The department shall require a person with whom the
12 department contracts for transitional living services for foster
13 youth to provide or assist youth in obtaining:

14 (1) housing services;

15 (2) job training and employment services;

16 (3) college preparation services;

17 (4) services that will assist youth in obtaining a
18 general education development certificate;

19 (5) services that will assist youth in developing
20 skills in food preparation;

21 (6) nutrition education that promotes healthy food
22 choices;

23 (7) a savings or checking account if the youth is at
24 least 18 years of age and has a source of income;

25 (8) mental health services;

26 (9) financial literacy education and civic engagement
27 lessons required under Subsection (a-2); and

1 (10) [~~(8)~~] any other appropriate transitional living
2 service identified by the department.

3 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
4 a person who enters into a contract with the Department of Family
5 and Protective Services to provide transitional living services for
6 foster youth on or after the effective date of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.